SHOPPERS DRUG MART
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VIGNEAULT GETS HIS EXTENSION

CANUCKS BENCH BOSS WILL RETURN DESPITE A DISAPPOINTING PLAYOFF RUN PAGE 41

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Tsunami debris may include body parts

Grisly prospect. Computer model predicts 100 shoes with bones washing ashore

A U.S. oceanographer has warned that human remains could be among the debris from last year's tsunami in Japan expected to wash up on the West Coast.

Curt Ebbesmeyer, co-creator of the Ocean Surface Current Simulator computer model, told a symposium in Port Angeles, Wash., earlier this week that people could expect to find as many as "100 sneakers with bones in them" and urged beach combers to be respectful with debris.

The provincial government expects the majority of tsunami debris to arrive on B.C. shorelines in 2013, but the Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee believes it's "highly unlikely" human remains will wash ashore.

According to a tsunami debris FAQ on the Ministry of Environment's website, human remains will be handled on a case-by-case basis, with the Coroners Service taking the lead.

"The Province has been in touch with the Japanese consulate over culturally sensitive and repatriation issues," the document states.

Meanwhile, volunteers are gearing up for a busy shoreline-cleanup season.

According to Jill Dwyer, more than 700 people have signed up for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup's tsunami-debris registry within the last week.

Volunteers removed 61,875 kilograms of litter from B.C. beaches last year.

Volunteers will be told to contact local authorities if they come across any human remains.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ocean debris believed to be from Japan is posed for a photograph on Long Beach in Tofino in April. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bieber coming to Vancouver

Local singer will open for pop superstar when tour hits the West Coast PAGE 2

Egyptians make history

Voters turn out in droves as country holds democratic elections PAGE 12

Celebrating Asian cuisine

Vancouver scene has been called one of the best in the world PAGE 16

Whitecaps fall to lowly TFC

Champions League dreams crushed as Toronto wins Canadian crown PAGE 40

1

NEWS

On the web

To out an alleged thief, play his clip

A man whose camcorder was briefly stolen has found a way to get back at the suspected thief: He uploaded to YouTube a video that the suspect took with the camera, a clip in which the man reveals his name, shows his face and admits he stole the camera. Watch at metronews.ca.

Wedding with a twister

An outdoor wedding ceremony in rural Kansas made for some memorable wedding photos. Watch at metronews.ca as Caleb and Candra Pence say their vows while a massive tornado touches down behind them.

Mobile news

It's not all bad news for Facebook this week. A recent project that monitors hate postings on social-media sites has given the popular site an A- and YouTube a C-. Scan the code for more.

Justin Bieber arrives at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday in Las Vegas. FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR ABC

Don't worry, Vancouver — he'll call (no maybes)

Waiting game. Justin Bieber is going on tour with Vancouver native Carly Rae Jepsen, but a local concert date is yet to be confirmed

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Justin Bieber fans' hearts skipped a beat early Wednesday morning when it looked as though his North American tour was going to skip Vancouver, but his manager Scooter Braun soon allayed those fears with this tweet: "u really think we would put @carlyraejepsen on the tour and not hit vancouver?? sit tight :)"

Mission-raised pop sensation Carly Rae Jepsen, whose catchy hit Call Me Maybe has been dubbed by some music writers as the song of the summer, will be opening for Bieber as he tours 45 cities to promote his fourth studio album, Believe, set to drop June 19.

Bieber's spokesperson said his team is in talks to set a date at Rogers Arena.

"As soon as the NHL announces the 2012-2013 regular-season schedule, we will be able to work with Justin's team to finalize his show in Vancouver," she said via email.

Rogers Arena could not confirm whether a tentative date has been set, but the Biebs' schedule will take him to Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 9 and on to Calgary on Oct. 12, making it likely the Vancouver stop will fall between those dates.

The 18-year-old will also play shows in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

Four-month tour

- The multi-platinum-selling Stratford, Ont., native begins his tour Sept. 29 in Glendale, Ariz., and will wrap it up in Miami on Jan. 26.

Salmon farm on Sunshine Coast quarantined

For the second time in less than two weeks, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has quarantined a B.C. salmon farm over concerns about the presence and possible spread of a virus.

Grieg Seafood announced Wednesday that while tests haven't yet confirmed the presence of infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus at its Ahlstrom Point farm, near Sechelt, the agency has quarantined the site, home to about 310,000 coho.

That official quarantine follows a voluntary isolation implemented by the company last week after a routine test identified a "low-positive result" for the virus.

Earlier this week, Mainstream Canada announced its Dixon Bay farm, north of Tofino, is now empty after tests confirmed May 14 the presence of the virus, leading to the cull of more than 560,000 young Atlantic salmon.

"Really, it's about saying we're in this stage where we know this virus can affect farm-raised Atlantic salmon and we want to do everything right to make sure that we are not going to be spreading it from there," said Stewart Hawthorn, Grieg Seafood's managing director.

"So the quarantine order is to prevent any risk of any spread from that location."

The food-inspection agency notes the virus exists in coastal waters and does not affect human health or food safety but poses a risk to aquatic animal health.

There's little risk to coho salmon, though, because the virus occurs naturally in wild salmon, and coho are native to B.C., said Hawthorn.

"They can carry this virus but not get sick from it."

Hawthorn said a low-positive result means that DNA testing has indicated that a virus might be present.

The company must now confirm whether the virus is actually present at the site, and the results of those tests are expected sometime this week, he added.

"We're being very responsible," he said. "We're saying, 'Well, let's assume that this is an IHN positive and we do have a disease that's happening.' That's the worst case it can be."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Atlantic salmon

94%

Ninety-four per cent of the salmon farmed in the province are Atlantic, worth some $470.3 million. Provincial government figures show Pacific salmon accounted for only six per cent of the salmon farmed in B.C. in 2010.

Brush with death

Drunk man unharmed after being run over by CP train

A drunken Alberta man in his 20s walked away without a scratch after being run over by 26 railcars in eastern B.C.

"It's really quite a miracle," said Sgt. Dave Dubnyk of the Elk Valley RCMP.

The young man, from Crowsnest Pass, was in Elk — in the Rocky Mountains just west of the Alberta border — during the Victoria Day weekend. He had left a campsite and passed out on the railway tracks Sunday, just around the time a CP Rail train came rolling in.

"He was lying between the railway ties, and the train came around, and (an engineer) saw him on the tracks and started blasting the horn and putting on the brakes," Dubnyk said. "The person didn't move and the train was unable to stop."

By the time the train halted, 26 cars had run right over the sleeping man.

CP staff ran to check up on him and tried to wake him up. After some failed attempts, the workers assumed he was dead. But one of the employees shook him and eventually woke him.

"He jumped up, he grabbed his beer and he carried on his way," Dubnyk said.

He said the man's small stature and the fact that he was dead drunk helped him stay alive.

Officers located him at a campsite and took him into custody for public intoxication and held him until he was sober.

CP Rail police will decide whether charges will be laid against the man.

This is the man's second brush with death. During last year's Victoria weekend, Dubnyk said a car apparently struck the man's vehicle.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Like nothing happened

"He jumped up, he grabbed his beer and he carried on his way."

Sgt. Dave Dubnyk of the Elk Valley RCMP

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Missing women. RCMP not asked to join Pickton investigation: Ex-officer

Police should have done more to find Vancouver's missing women but the Mounties weren't asked to get involved in the Robert Pickton case, a retired senior RCMP official says.

Gary Bass told the inquiry examining Pickton's actions that the RCMP major-crimes section was providing some help to the missing-women investigation in 1998, but wasn't in charge of it.

The former deputy commissioner in B.C. says that at the time, Vancouver police still believed the women had simply gone missing on their own, even though RCMP thought foul play was involved as far back as 1995.

He says when the major-crimes section was finally asked to review the case in 2000, Vancouver police didn't have their files ready and the investigation was delayed for another six months.

Bass told the inquiry the RCMP believed there were three serial killers operating in the province at the time — in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and northern B.C.

Police decided to focus on the valley murders because they had DNA exhibits, he said.

"Ironically, they still have not been solved," Bass added.

In 1999, police records showed there were at least 45 unsolved prostitute murders in the province.

Pickton wasn't arrested until 2002 and was eventually convicted of killing six women, but the DNA of 33 women was found on his family's farm in Port Coquitlam. He once told an undercover officer that he killed 49.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dust-up. Police seeking leads in fight that left man in critical condition

Vancouver police hope someone can help them solve a case involving two men and a mysterious fight.

Investigators are urging witnesses to come forward if they have any information about an incident in a south Vancouver lane at about 1:30 a.m. on May 20.

A witness called 911 to report hearing a disagreement and officers arrived to find two men on the ground about 150 metres apart, both injured, one of them critically.

Police have made little headway since then.

A 45-year-old victim has been treated for head injuries and released from hospital, while a 44-year-old man remains in critical condition.

Investigators say both men live in the area, but they haven't said if they know how or if the men know each other, or what led to the violence, though they believe alcohol may have played a part.

Anyone who may have seen the fight is asked to contact the VPD robbery and assault squad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wildfire season

B.C. firefighters heading to Ontario, Quebec

B.C. is sending another group of highly trained wildfire fighters to Ontario and Quebec to help with forest fires in those provinces.

The Wildfire Management Branch says 210 workers, including attack crews and support staff, leave tomorrow for the eastern provinces.

All of the crews will be departing from Kamloops or Prince George and the teams will be deployed for up to two weeks, although they can be recalled if needed in this province.

Two major forest fires are threatening communities in Northern Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Agribusiness

We like them other apples more: Province

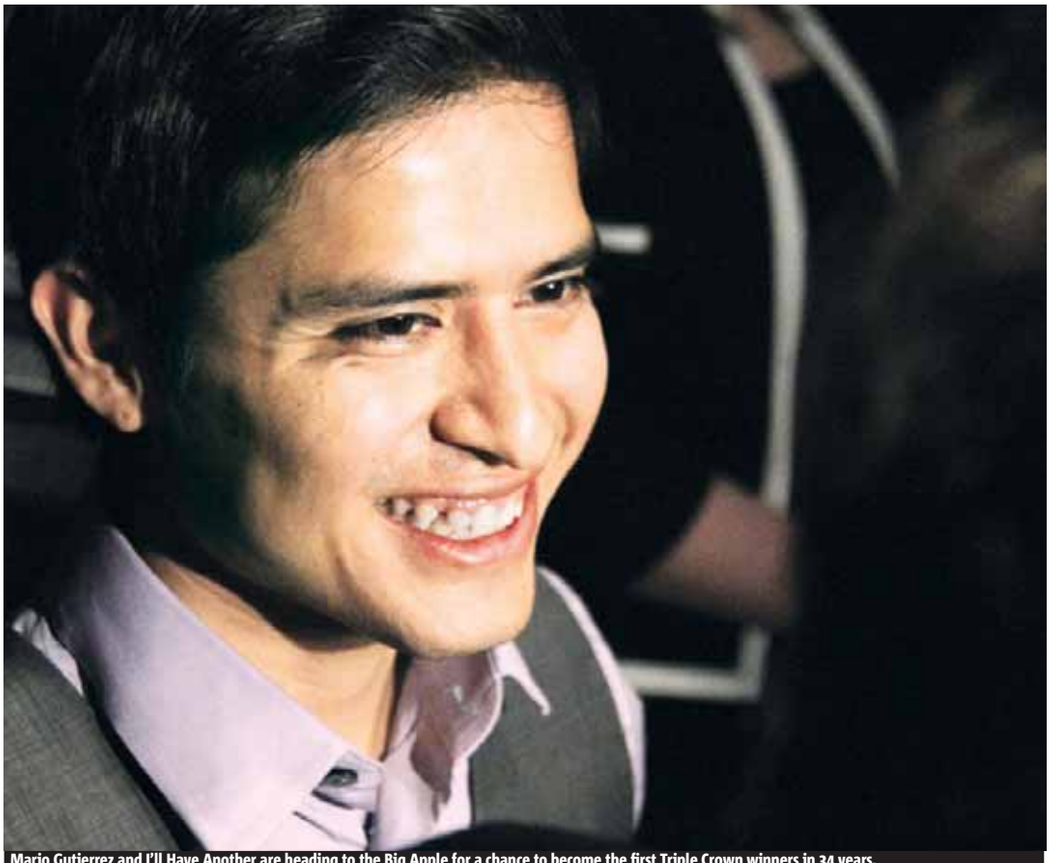
The B.C. government is offering apple growers $2 million to take part in a provincewide initiative to replant low-value orchards with varieties that are more in demand.

Officials with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands say the idea is to plant more premium apple varieties such as ambrosia and red gala to serve high-value fruit markets.

The program will be administered by the B.C. Fruit Growers Association and operate for three years.

Growers can apply to take part at any time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mario Gutierrez and I'll Have Another are heading to the Big Apple for a chance to become the first Triple Crown winners in 34 years.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

Gutierrez preparing to ride his way to the top

Just one more to go. Vancouver jockey taking it easy before Belmont Stakes and shot at Triple Crown

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Hastings jockey Mario Gutierrez says he will simply be "chilling out" as he waits for the biggest race of his life.

The Mexican-born rider, who is one victory away from capturing thoroughbred racing's elusive Triple Crown, says he's trying not to put too much pressure on himself and is taking things one race at a time.

Gutierrez, 25, rode I'll Have Another to two dramatic victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes. Next up is the third jewel in the crown, the Belmont Stakes.

"Whatever is meant to happen will happen," he said in a conference call with media from across North America. "I just want to go there and give my 100 per cent because I know I'll Have Another will do the same. Regardless of the result, I'll be happy as long as I know that I gave 100 per cent."

He'll be heading to New York soon to ride a few horses and prepare for the race on June 9.

Gutierrez, who spent six years as a jockey at the Hastings Racecourse, also talked about how happy he is about the overwhelming support he has received from Vancouver, his "second home."

"(My family) knows that because of Vancouver I was able to bring a better life for them," he said.

The humble jockey seemed uneasy answering questions about his own skills and much preferred to talk about I'll Have Another.

"It's like me being in a very expensive sports car that has a lot of gears and every time you switch gears to go faster, he'll just give it to you," he said. "That's amazing. Not many horses can do that."

Gutierrez and I'll Have Another have a chance to become the first Triple Crown winners in 34 years.

"I know my horse. I know that he's capable of doing such amazing things. I know that we have a shot," he said.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Premier Christy Clark

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Clark defends hydro-rate cap

Premier Christy Clark says she won't back down from her government's decision to overrule the province's independent utilities regulator, which called for a significant BC Hydro rate increase next year.

On Tuesday, the Liberal government ordered BC Hydro to cap its rate hike at 17 per cent over three years, down from the 30 per cent hike called for by the B.C. Utilities Commission.

"The legislation allows the government to override their decisions precisely because sometimes we end up in situations where the B.C. Utilities Commission decides that a 50 per cent increase is appropriate, and the government decides that it's not," Clark said Wednesday.

Clark said higher hydro rates would add another burden on taxpayers during tough economic times.

"I know that the union was arguing hard for a 50 per cent rate increase at the B.C. Utilities Commission, and I just disagree with that," she said in reference to CUPE Local 378. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEW CANADIANS USE CARD TO BUILD CREDIT, SETTLE INTO THEIR NEW LIFE

NEW IMMIGRANTS

David, 37, and his family — Kim, 33, and their two children, Amy, 8, and Paz, 6 — moved to Canada from China a year ago. He had been offered a job as an associate professor of business administration at a university in Manitoba. While it was a big move, the couple felt it was an opportunity they couldn't turn down.

David and Kim hope to add a second income soon (Kim is still looking for a job in fine arts). Right now, the annual family income is $75,000.

"It's a bit tight with two kids and a savings plan," says Kim. "But I'm sure I'll find something... and in the meantime, we've learned how to cut corners and shop economically."

The couple shares a car, and the family lives in a rented bungalow near the university. Their plan is to buy a larger house with a granny suite in the next few years. Kim's parents are also planning to immigrate, and they will contribute to the down payment.

When the couple first came to Canada, one of the first things they did was get their finances in order. They visited their closest Scotiabank branch and in addition to opening a chequing and savings account, they applied for a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card. One of the reasons was to build their credit; the other reason was to use it for everyday purchases and earn valuable cash back on every purchase they put on the card.

David and Kim were smart to realize that using their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card instead of cash to pay for everyday purchases was a great way to get something back. The card provides 2 per cent cash back on purchases at gas stations, grocery stores, drugstores and on recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other purchases[1].

"While there's an annual fee of $39[2], the cash back reward is well worth it," says David, "and the cash back is deposited into our joint account once a year. Why use cash for everyday purchases when you can get cash back."

"We love our new life in Canada," says Kim. "The kids have found friends and we love the convenience of the neighbourhood. We're here to stay."

This advertorial is prepared by Scotiabank. Characters in this advertorial are fictional. [1]See #1 in our ad of this publication for details on the benefit. [2]See #2 in our ad of this publication for details on the benefit.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

David and Kim's profile:

David and Kim use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card to pay for about $1,000 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as rent, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0 — 400 — 800	
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Gas Station		$ 120
Drug Store		$ 80
Recurring Bills		$ 50
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	Total Monthly	**$ 1,000**

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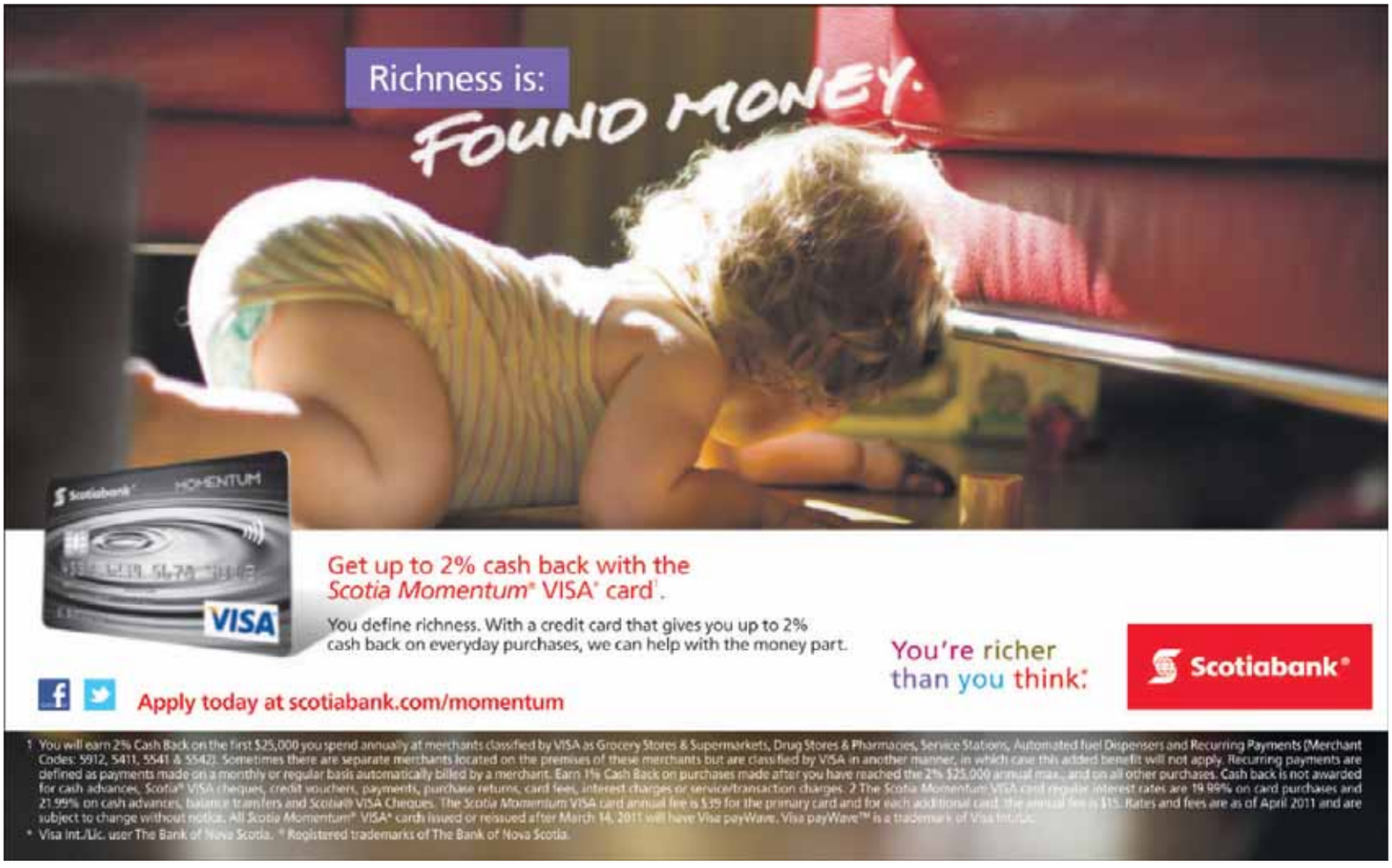
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Second-degree murder. Teen charged in girl's slaying in northeast B.C.

A 17-year-old boy has been charged in the murder of a teenage girl in northeast B.C. last year.

The body of 17-year-old Chassidy Charlie was found by her mother in the family's home in Burns Lake on Jan. 26.

RCMP Cpl. John Grierson says investigators conducted an exhaustive investigation that has led to a charge of second-degree murder against the suspect.

Grierson says the boy knew Charlie and is also a resident of the Burns Lake area, but police won't release his name because of his age.

Police have not said how Charlie was killed, but the victim's mother said her daughter's face had been burned.

A court date for the suspect has not yet been set.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merritt detachment

Two more charges laid against Mountie accused of stealing drugs

More charges have been laid against a B.C. Mountie accused of stealing drugs from a police evidence locker.

Staff Sgt. Stuart Seib was suspended as head of the Merritt detachment in January after he was charged with theft and breach of trust following allegations he stole and used cocaine stored in the locker.

Court heard Wednesday that two extra charges have been laid — one each of theft and breach of trust — dating back to June 2010.

Following the initial charges, RCMP investigators examined every case Seib had handled.

Seib was stationed in Clearwater until November 2011, when he was transferred to Merritt.

His case has been adjourned until July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still in jail. Man charged in connection with teen's death unable to make bail

A man charged in connection with the murder of an Armstrong teenager remains in custody despite being granted bail last week.

Fifty-eight-year-old Stephen Foerster of Cherryville has not been able to meet the terms of his release, which includes posting $100,000 cash and two sureties.

His case has been put over to June 13 after a court appearance in Vernon Wednesday.

Foerster is charged with being an accessory after the fact to murder and obstructing justice in the death of 18-year-old Taylor Van Diest last Halloween.

His son, Matthew Foerster, is charged with first-degree murder in the case and remains in custody.

The younger Foerster also faces charges of sexual assault and unlawful confinement in Kelowna in 2005, and charges of break-and-enter and assault causing bodily harm stemming from an incident in Cherryville in 2004.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sahar wants to make beautiful history

Miss Universe contest. Vancouverite says she wants to become the first Iranian-Canadian woman to win the international pageant

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Vancouver's Sahar Biniaz is ready to bring the Miss Universe crown back to Canada.

Biniaz beat 62 contestants in the Miss Universe Canada pageant Saturday, including the first transgender contestant and fellow Vancouverite Jenna Talackova.

Biniaz, 26, said she worried about Talackova's story overshadowing her and the other contestants. She knew the whole world was watching and just gave her all, she said.

"It just motivated me more and made me more excited to be at the event because I felt like, 'This is it. This is the day I get to show our beautiful Vancouver,'" Biniaz said.

She now has set her sights on making history to become the first Iranian-Canadian to be Miss Universe.

She added: "I'm so excited of the many opportunities I get to do with this new job."

Biniaz said she enjoyed talking to Talackova during the competition. "We're both girly girls and she's extremely nice," she said.

Biniaz is off to South America next week to help with SOS Children's Villages.

She also wants to raise general awareness about the importance of being an organ donor. "Three years ago, I lost my cousin, who was 25 years old, to a car accident," she said.

"The best thing that came out of that, he saved someone's life (because he was an organ donor)."

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

A TV star, too

Biniaz, who had guest-starring roles in two hit TV series, Sanctuary and Smallville, will appear in an Iranian film called Ambrosia coming out in August.

Vancouver's Sahar Biniaz will represent Canada in the international Miss Universe contest in December. CONTRIBUTED/BEAUTIES OF CANADA

Craft brewers offer sober warning

Don't expect the province's craft-beer brewers to raise a glass to the provincial government.

Quite the opposite. The B.C. Craft Brewers Guild issued a sober warning Wednesday, saying the government's decision to privatize the B.C. Liquor Warehouse will only bring increased beer prices and could price some smaller breweries out of the market.

"Creating a private monopoly doesn't seem right," said guild chairman Tod Melnyk.

"There will be costs involved.

"Craft brewers are going to have to pay more to get their products distributed and a lot of those costs will be passed on to consumers.

"How much to they want to pay for beer? It's going to come down to that."

Melnyk says the guild hasn't been contacted by the government for its input and added it's possible smaller breweries may be put at risk if costs increase significantly.

Some estimate a privatized warehouse system may cost an additional 75 cents per case for breweries.

"We wanted to come out and say we're not in favour of this," said Melnyk. "Craft brewers are small businesses that employ people throughout B.C."

The provincial government announced plans to privatize the warehouse system in its last budget, part of a plan to generate more than $700 million through the sale of surplus properties.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Fraud. Saanich police tell elderly to be wary of scam

Saanich police are warning the public of a door-to-door scam targeting the elderly population.

In four separate incidents, elderly victims — some with dementia — have been defrauded thousands of dollars over the last few months by a man who offered power washing, painting or driveway-resealing services. In all cases, some money was paid upfront, but little to no work was done.

On May 13, an 88-year-old Saanich man lost his debit and credit cards after the suspect approached him. About $15,000 in unauthorized transactions were recorded.

On March 12, an 85-year-old Saanich woman paid out approximately $900 over a three-day period to have power washing done around her home. The work was never completed.

Police say two other incidents, one in Central Saanich on May 17 and another in Oak Bay on April 5 had similar characteristics, including the targeted age group and the name used by the suspect.

In all cases, the fraudster is described as a white male in his mid-30s, tall and slender, approximately six feet tall, with tattoos on his arms and possibly his neck.

PHOEBE HO/METRO IN VICTORIA

Kelowna

Motorcyclist dies

A 31-year-old Kelowna man has died after riding his uninsured motorcycle into the path of an oncoming SUV.

Kelowna RCMP say the crash happened just before 7 p.m. Tuesday. Investigators are still trying to determine why the motorcyclist suddenly veered into the oncoming lane.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Low ticket sales

Final note for Merritt Mountain

The show won't go on for the Merritt Mountain Music Festival, at least not this year. The summer festival was once the biggest entertainment event in the Interior, drawing as many as 150,000 people per event.

Organizers say they cancelled the event because of low sales. THE CANADIAN PRESS

To Catch a Bike Thief nears fundraising deadline

Red-handed. Show uses bait bikes to catch thieves, shine light on larger social issues

KATE WEBB
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Ingo Lou, web-series producer, and Kirsten Aubrey, director, with a bait bike in February. KENDRA WONG/METRO FILE

Jan. 13, 2011, changed Ingo Lou's life forever.

"That's the night that my bike got stolen," he says with a trace of bitterness in his voice familiar to anyone who has had the same experience.

The trained biochemist was working for a tech company when his Red Schwinn Moab was stolen.

"It was a beautiful bike, and I'd had it for a bunch of years, but it was also the fourth bike that I'd had stolen, so I sort of decided at that point that enough is enough, we've got to do something."

Fast-forward to a month ago, when Lou took the bold step of quitting his job to pursue his new full-time passion: producing a show called To Catch a Bike Thief.

The concept of the show, which so far only has a pilot episode, is to use bait bikes to catch thieves, and shine a light on the larger social issues that make Vancouver such fertile turf for them.

Lou is using the crowdfunding website Indiegogo to try to raise enough to make six more episodes. So far he and his partner, director Kirsten Aubrey, have raised $4,550 toward their $20,000 goal.

"There's a lot of different players in the fight against bike theft, and we have this unique opportunity with a GPS-tracked bait bike that we can study the problem," Lou explains. "We can identify who's stealing bikes, why they're stealing bikes, where stolen bikes go, and ultimately what happens when stolen bikes are bought and sold."

The two-month-long online fundraiser will end May 31, and Lou says more donations are needed to ensure the project moves forward. He says he's working with a major bicycle manufacturer toward a sponsorship agreement, and has had interest from TV producers.

It's a good thing, because bait bikes don't come cheap. The GPS, camera and mics alone that were planted in the prototype — which no one has yet stolen — cost about $400.

"It'd be like a James Bond bike, right from Q's workshop," Lou says with a smile.

With the right amount of funding, though, he figures it's only a matter of time before he and Aubrey catch someone red-handed.

For links and videos of the show, visit metronews.ca

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Budget. Tory MP backs off after voicing worries over huge omnibus bill

A Conservative MP says plenty of government backbenchers share opposition concerns about the wide array of controversial measures crammed into the massive budget-implementation bill.

But British Columbia MP David Wilks says there's nothing a lone member can do to defeat the bill or force the Harper government to split up its 425 pages.

Wilks made the comments during a meeting Tuesday with a small group of constituents in his Kootenay-Columbia riding.

Portions of the meeting were videotaped and posted online Wednesday, prompting Wilks to quickly backtrack.

In the video, Wilks is urged by several constituents to vote against the omnibus budget bill, which features a host of non-budgetary measures including changes to the environmental-assessment process, Old Age Security, immigration and Employment Insurance rules.

But Wilks says without similar defiance from at least a dozen fellow Tories, voting against the bill would be an empty gesture that would get him booted out of the Conservative caucus.

"Me doesn't change the budget," he tells the constituents. "If I stand up and say 'no,' it still passes."

Pressed by one woman to break party ranks and represent the views of his constituents on the bill, Wilks responds: "If you want me as an independent, I'll do that."

In the candid exchange, Wilks reveals frustration over the way in which the bill has been presented.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Trojan Horse'

Opposition parties have dubbed the legislation a "Trojan Horse bill," designed to sneak through a host of controversial changes to a wide array of programs with little individual scrutiny.

- MP David Wilks is the first Conservative MP to echo those concerns.

Quebec insists it's still open to talks with students

Beyond tuition.
Many protesters insist the current unrest is more about broader economic justice

The Quebec government says the door remains open to discussion with students opposed to tuition hikes and who have been staging daily protests for more than 100 days.

Premier Jean Charest made his comments in the national assembly Wednesday amid reports that an official in the Education Department had contacted student leaders.

It's unclear what the sides might possibly discuss: The government remains committed to tuition hikes, and the student groups remain staunchly opposed to them.

But despite whispers about a possible return to the bargaining table, there was no evidence of any imminent talks between the government and the three main student groups.

Student groups were quoted in news reports expressing skepticism that it was worth bothering to negotiate with the government — and suggesting the effort would simply be an exercise in public relations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, spokesperson for the CLASSE student group, demonstrates in Montreal on Tuesday to mark the 100th day of the student strike, which opposes tuition-fee hikes. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gambling

Oddsmakers take bets on student strike

A sports-gambling site has begun taking bets on potential outcomes of Quebec's student strike.

The site sets odds for when the strike will end; whether there will be a referendum on tuition hikes; how many fines will be levied against the most hardline student group; and whether the government will back down.

It even sets odds on whether martial law will be declared in Quebec by the end of 2012. Just for the record, those odds are pegged at 5.5 to 1.

The Quebec-based site predicts even chances of the strike ending by September, and also sets 50-50 odds on the Quebec government amending or repealing its controversial emergency legislation, Bill 78.

Setting odds over which celebrity might be next to wear the iconic red protest square, U.S. filmmaker Michael Moore comes in first at 7 to 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CP Railway pulls 2,000 jobs as strike continues

Striking Canadian Pacific Railway workers picket outside the company's rail yard Wednesday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A strike by 4,800 Canadian Pacific Railway workers means the services of thousands of other employees won't be needed, a spokesman for the railway said Wednesday as the federal labour minister threatened to force an end to the day-old stoppage.

"Unfortunately, with this unnecessary strike by the Teamsters, more than 2,000 other unionized CP employees will not be required and are being laid off," said CP's Ed Greenberg.

"We expect this to grow by another 1,400 employees as their work, related to the operations of the railroad, is no longer required."

Greenberg said the layoffs could affect those who work in the yard, engineering and mechanical areas — essentially anyone who isn't needed when trains aren't running.

Earlier in Ottawa, Labour Minister Lisa Raitt said the government is prepared to introduce back-to-work legislation if CP and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference can't reach a deal.

"We want to create the atmosphere where they can do a deal on their own," she told reporters.

"But they have to be aware of the fact that the Canadian government will step in on the basis of the national economy and the greater public interest at some point."

A prolonged strike would cost the Canadian economy an estimated $540 million a week, Raitt said, calling that figure "conservative."

She said some freight might be able to move by other means — by truck or on rival railroad Canadian National Railway Co.'s network.

Opposition labour critic Alexandre Boulerice said he's concerned the threat of back-to-work legislation will skew the balance at the negotiating table in favour of the company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strike effects

Both the union and CP have said the negotiations would continue Wednesday.

- In a release, the Canadian Mining Association urged Ottawa to step in to end the dispute, as mining companies depend on rail to bring equipment and fuel to site and move their product to market.
- The strike is also affecting Canadian farmers, and the companies that supply nutrients and other goods to them.

Fatal stabbings

Victims ID'd in Atlantic City attack

U.S. authorities investigating the stabbing deaths of two Canadian tourists during a mugging said the victims were a 47-year-old woman and her 80-year-old mother, who tried to aid her.

Po Lin Wan and her daughter Alice Mei See Leung, both from the Scarborough suburb of Toronto, were killed by a Philadelphia woman across the street from Bally's Atlantic City, the Atlantic County prosecutor's office alleged Wednesday

Autopsy results determined that Po Lin Wan bled to death, while her daughter died from being stabbed in the heart. A prosecutor's office news release Tuesday night had reversed their causes of death. Authorities said the suspect, Antoinette Pelzer, was trying to steal a pocketbook from one of the women. Pelzer is charged with murder and was being held on $1.5-million US bail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The North

Health minister maintains criticism of UN over food

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq says that when she tore a strip off a UN right-to-food envoy last week, she never meant to imply there were no hunger problems in the North.

In an interview with the Canadian Press, Aglukkaq said there are indeed serious poverty challenges in her home region. But she said she resents being told how to fix things by an outsider who has no first-hand knowledge of the North and who comes from a country that opposes the seal hunt. Last week, the UN's special rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, presented his findings from a trip across Canada, saying he had "extremely severe" concerns about the ability of aboriginal people and families on social assistance to afford the food they need to stay healthy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Nations

Seven youth deaths call for broad inquiry: Group

An Ontario First Nations group has asked the province's chief coroner for a joint inquest into the deaths of seven aboriginal teens who left their reserves to get an education.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) says all seven youths died under similar circumstances since 2000 while attending school in Thunder Bay, Ont., and a broad inquest could help bring closure to their families.

NAN lawyer Julian Falconer says a lack of answers has made the community deeply suspicious of the causes of the deaths and many families are now afraid to send their children away to school.

Falconer says all First Nations should be entitled to educate their youth in high schools based in their own communities.

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Fraud. Bride who faked cancer released from jail

A New York woman who faked having leukemia so donors would pay for her dream wedding and Caribbean honeymoon has been released from jail.

Jessica Vega left the jail a few hours after being sentenced Wednesday to the nearly two months she had already served. A prosecutor says she paid back more than $13,000 US as required under her plea deal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jessica Vega TOM BUSHEY/TIMES HERALD-RECORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan. Jail time for man who helped nab bin Laden

A doctor who helped the CIA hunt down Osama bin Laden was convicted Wednesday of conspiring against the state and sentenced to 33 years in prison, adding new strains to an already deeply troubled relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan.

U.S. officials had urged Pakistan to release the doctor, who ran a vaccination program for the CIA to collect DNA and verify the al-Qaida leader's presence at the compound in the town of Abbottabad, where U.S. commandos killed him in May 2011 in a unilateral raid.

The lengthy sentence against Dr. Shakil Afridi will be taken as another sign of Pakistan's defiance of American wishes. It could give further fuel to critics in the U.S. that Pakistan — which has yet to arrest anyone for helping shelter bin Laden — should not be treated as an ally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptians vote on first day of historic presidential elections

Democracy. Citizens have 13 candidates to choose from

More than 15 months after autocratic leader Hosni Mubarak's was ousted, Egyptians streamed to polling stations Wednesday to freely choose a president for the first time in generations. Waiting hours in line, some debated to the last minute over their vote in a historic election pitting old regime figures against ascending Islamists.

A sense of amazement at having a choice in the Arab world's first truly competitive presidential election pervaded the crowds in line. At the same time, voters were fervent with expectations over where a new leader will take a country that has been in turmoil ever since its ruler for nearly 30 years was toppled by mass protests.

Some backed Mubarak-era veterans, believing they can bring stability after months of rising crime, a crumbling economy and bloody riots. Others were horrified by the thought, believing the "feloul" — or "remnants" of the regime — will keep Egypt locked in dictatorship and thwart democracy.

Islamists, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, saw their chance to lead a country where they were repressed for decades and to implement their version of Islamic law. Their critics recoiled, fearing theocracy.

"You can't tell me, 'Vote for this or else you're a sinner!'" Wael Ramadan argued with an Islamist-backer in line at a polling station in the impoverished Cairo neighbourhood of Basateen. "We never said that," protested the man. "Yes, you did," Ramadan shot back.

"The revolution changed a lot, for good and bad," Ramadan said afterwards. "The good thing is all this freedom. We are here and putting up with the trouble of waiting in line for electing a president. My vote matters. Now we want a president who has a vision."

A field of 13 candidates is running in Wednesday and Thursday's voting. The two-day first run is not expected to produce an outright winner, so a runoff between the two top vote-getters will be held June 16 to 17. The winner will be announced June 21. Around 50-million people are eligible to vote. Turnout so far appeared moderate, and Wednesday's vote was extended another hour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frontrunners

- **Mohammed Morsi.** A mainstream Muslim Brotherhood candidate.
- **Abdel-Moneim Abolfotoh.** A moderate Islamist whose platform has won over some liberals, leftists and Christians.
- **Ahmed Shafiq.** A secular candidate who was the prime minister under Hosni Mubarak.
- **Amr Moussa.** A secular candidate who was previously the foreign minister.

Two women show their inked fingers after casting their votes on Day 1 of the presidential election in Old Cairo. FREDRIK PERSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congress

Secret Service head apologizes for scandal

The Secret Service prostitution scandal was centre stage in the U.S. capital on Wednesday as the director of the agency in charge of protecting the president made a high-profile apology before a congressional hearing.

Mark Sullivan, head of the Secret Service, took the stand at a packed Senate hearing into the scandal and apologized "for the conduct of these employees and the distraction it has caused." His apology came a month after agents, several of them married, were caught hiring Colombian hookers in advance of President Barack Obama's visit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexico

Politico accused of corruption suspended

Mexico's former ruling party said Wednesday it will suspend the party membership of a former governor accused of accepting millions of dollars in bribes from drug cartels in the country.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party said the former governor of Tamaulipas, Tomas Yarrington, will be suspended until the accusations are cleared up. The party, known as the PRI, held Mexico's presidency without interruption from 1929 to 2000, and continues to govern most Mexican states. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in pictures

1 More Palin TV. Bristol to star in own series about Alaska life

Life's a Tripp will feature Bristol Palin, daughter of former governor Sarah Palin, on the Lifetime network.

2 Deportation. Mother of Texas runaway sues authorities

Johnisa Turner is suing the Justice Department and Homeland Security claiming her daughter was illegally deported.

3 Olympics. Five-day torch relay concludes in England

Amongst the torch carriers were Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter Zara Phillips and soccer star Didier Drogba.

4 Bin Laden. Film work jeopardized raid: Official

A House committee chairman has charged that operating too closely with filmmakers jeopardized the bin Laden raid.

5 Sexual assault. Cake Boss regular gets nine years

The brother-in-law of Cake Boss' Buddy Valastro has been sentenced for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl.

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Sanctions to blame for shortages of basic goods: Syria

Long lines for cooking gas. U.S. ambassador says Syria is using fuel imports for its own tanks, says sanctions do not target oil and diesel imports

Syria's oil minister blamed international sanctions Wednesday for shortages of cooking gas and other basic goods, saying the measures have bled $4 billion from the nation's ailing economy.

President Bashar Assad's regime must strike a delicate balance toward the U.S. and EU sanctions as it confronts a 15-month-old uprising against its rule, acknowledging their heavy toll while denying the regime's grip on power is in any way shaken.

Sufian Allaw said the punitive measures were to blame for the shortages that have left Syrians across the country standing in long lines to pay inflated prices for cooking gas, fuel, sugar and other staples.

The U.S. ambassador to Damascus denied that the international sanctions are to blame for the shortages facing Syrians.

"Our sanctions purposefully do not target oil and diesel imports, because we know that the Syrian people need both for their day-to-day lives," Ambassador Robert Ford wrote on the embassy's Facebook page.

Ford said the government is using fuel imports for its tanks.

"If the Assad regime decided to cut its military expenditures, more diesel and oil would be available for the Syrian people to use," he said.

Before the Syrian uprising began, the oil sector was a pillar of Syria's economy, with oil exports — mostly to Europe — bringing in $7 million to $8 million per day.

This income was key to maintaining the $17 billion in foreign reserves that the government had at the start of the uprising. Syria is seeking imports from countries not party to the sanctions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian tinderbox

Syria's uprising began with mostly peaceful calls for reform, but the government's brutal crackdown on dissent led many in the opposition to take up arms.

- The UN estimates more than 9,000 people have been killed, most of them civilians.
- Arab foreign ministers will meet in Cairo on June 2 to discuss Syria.

Return to loving arms

A woman, one of the Lebanese Shiites who were kidnapped in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo on Tuesday, is kissed by a relative upon her arrival in Beirut on Wednesday. Syrian rebels let the women go and kept the men. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Refugees flee violence

Congolese crossing into Uganda, plans for large influx

More than 12,000 Congolese fleeing violence at home have crossed into Uganda since the end of last year, and Uganda is planning for an influx of up to 30,000 refugees from Congo, an official said Wednesday.

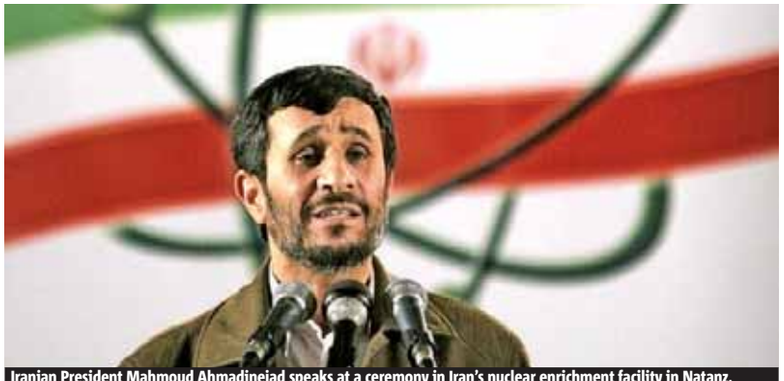
Scores of refugees enter Uganda every day and 200 police have been deployed to help manage border security, said Stephen Mallinga, Uganda's minister for disaster preparedness and relief.

"The refugees started coming in November and up to now they are still coming," Mallinga said.

Thousands of Congolese refugees are also fleeing into Rwanda.

Last November Congo voted in a presidential election that stoked fears of violence in the eastern part of the country, where the Congolese army has limited authority. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No human-rights abusers at the Olympics: U.K.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks at a ceremony in Iran's nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz, 300 kilometres south of Tehran. HASAN SARBAKHSHIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain will ban leaders guilty of human-rights abuses from travelling to the U.K. for the 2012 London Olympics, a senior British official said Wednesday.

Jeremy Browne, the Foreign Office minister, answered a question by Labour lawmaker Denis MacShane by saying that people linked to such crimes will not be allowed into the country.

"Where there is independent, reliable and credible evidence that an individual has committed human-rights abuses, the individual will not normally be permitted to enter the UK," Browne said a written response to a parliamentary query.

He would not comment on individual cases but said anyone subject to a European Union or UN travel ban will not be welcome.

Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime is under UN sanctions for its violent crackdown on dissent.

The International Criminal Court has indicted Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for genocide but appears nowhere close to having him arrested.

The British comments come after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he was eager to attend the London Olympics.

But Britain didn't want to host him, according to the official IRNA news agency. There are UN sanctions against Iran.

MacShane seized on the comments and called for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Bahrain's King Hamad to be among those barred from the Olympics, which take place from July 27 to August 12 in London. Neither is under sanctions.

The Olympic torch is already making its way around Great Britain, having left Greece. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Check, counter-check

Russia, concerned about NATO defences, tests new missile

Russia has successfully test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile.

Officials say it has an enhanced capability to penetrate missile defences.

Russia has viewed the planned U.S.-led NATO missile-defence system around Europe as a potential threat, rejecting U.S. assurances that the shield is intended to counter an Iranian missile threat.

The Russian defence ministry said the missile's practice warhead successfully reached a designated target at a range on the far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula. "The new ICBM will strengthen the combat capability."

NATO says it wants to co-operate with Russia on the missile shield, but has rejected Moscow's proposal to run it jointly.

The military says it will enhance their capability to monitor missile launches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuclear program

World powers sit down with Iran

Iran traded proposals in Baghdad with six world powers, including the U.S., on Wednesday.

It was a new round of talks aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program. But divisions over sanctions complicated the discussions.

The Baghdad talks could offer a test of how much the U.S. and its allies are willing to bend on demands for Iran to halt all uranium enrichment and instead concentrate on just stopping the highest-grade production.

No breakthrough accords were expected in the Iraqi capital, suggesting that all sides are still shaping their strategies and the negotiation process is likely to be long and complex. That could allow U.S. and European allies to significantly tone down threats of military action.

But it would likely bring objections from Israel, which claims that Iran is trying to buy time to keep its nuclear labs in full operation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN report

Radiation not the cause of death in reactor employees

A year after an earthquake and tsunami triggered the Fukushima disaster, a UN agency preparing a report on the health effects says none of the six former reactor workers who have died since the catastrophe perished due to the effects of radiation.

The UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation said Wednesday that although several workers at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant were irradiated after contamination of their skin "no clinically observable effects have been reported."

UNSCEAR Chairman Wolfgang Weiss said in a statement that the agency is aiming to evaluate irradiation levels for about 2 million people living in Fukushima prefecture at the time of the reactor accident.

UNSCEAR plans to report to the UN General Assembly next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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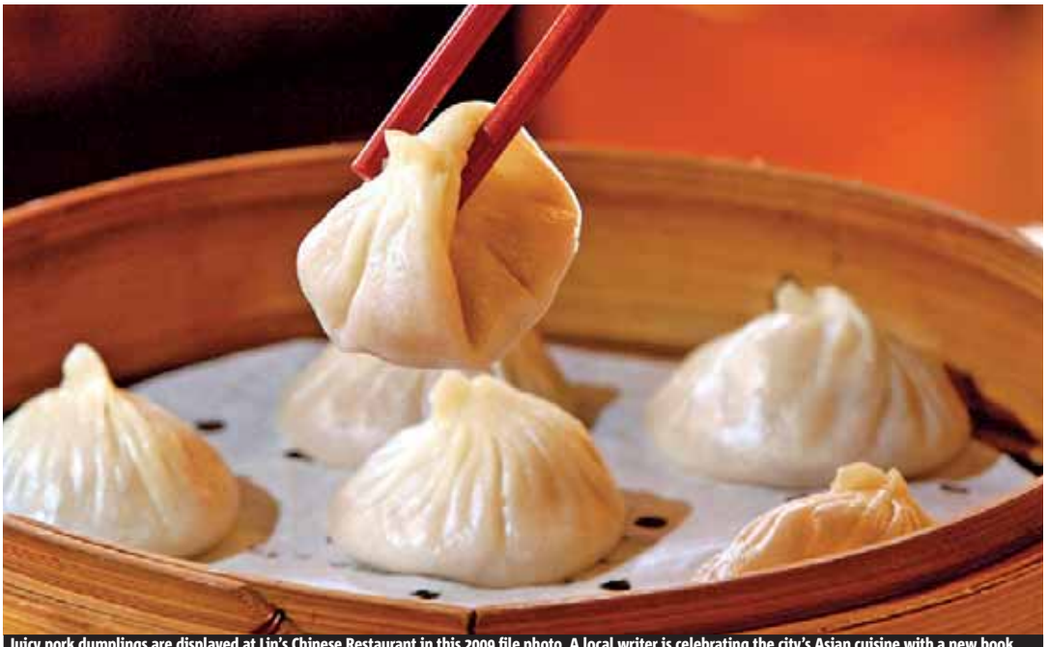
Celebrating the city's Asian food

Dishing out. New culinary guide and cookbook offers inside look at restaurants, supermarkets and specialty shops



Juicy pork dumplings are displayed at Lin's Chinese Restaurant in this 2009 file photo. A local writer is celebrating the city's Asian cuisine with a new book, East Meets West. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

So famous for its vitality and versatility, Vancouver's Asian food and restaurant scene has been labelled world-class and even praised as the best on the planet.

To celebrate the distinction, East Meets West by food writer Stephanie Yuen takes readers on a tour of the city's most exciting eateries and shops, many of them hidden gems and elusive to the uninitiated.

The 55-year-old Hong Kong-born author was an ideal candidate to compile the book as she has lived in Vancouver for more than 30 years. She is a freelance food journalist who speaks Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

Residents and visitors to the west-coast city can enjoy myriad cuisines from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and India. These are scattered throughout the Lower Mainland along with many Asian supermarkets, strip malls and specialty shops.

"I have eaten in every one of the restaurants I chose for the book and developed a database of them I compiled prior to being approached to write it," Yuen says.

She also contacted chefs and owners of the establishments in an effort to include their recipes in East Meets West.

But Yuen found that "it is not easy to extract recipes from Asian chefs as most of them don't write them down. The recipes are up in their brains.

"Sometimes if the chef is in a good mood he will write a recipe on a paper napkin or on the back of a bill, and that is a wonderful moment," she says with a chuckle.

Yuen traces the history of Asian food in Vancouver dating back nearly two centuries to the 1870s and '80s when the Chinese were imported as labourers for building Canada's national railway.

"The earliest ones were Chinese smorgasbords started by Cantonese cooks who fed the millworkers, but most were eating only what they prepared at home," Yuen writes.

But beginning in the late 1960s, driven by an influx of immigrants from Hong Kong, vital energy was injected into Chinatown. A number of retail shops, grocery stores and restaurants successfully made it a destination for all things Asian, she adds.

Expo '86 saw more immigrants from Asia flow into Metro Vancouver along with a culinary wave that has garnered praise from cuisine luminaries who have come from afar to taste its wealth of delicacies.

As Mark Schatzker wrote in Conde Nast Traveler, "I've eaten Chinese food all over North America and in China and the best I've eaten in the world was in Vancouver. Hands down."

Yuen also includes a quote from Mark Bittman, food columnist for The New York Times, who wrote, "Vancouver's Asian food scene is so good and so vast as to have few rivals in North America."

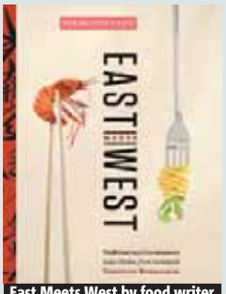
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Sometimes if the chef is in a good mood he will write a recipe on a paper napkin or the back of a bill, and that is a wonderful moment."

Author Stephanie Yuen

Tasty read



East Meets West by food writer Stephanie Yuen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

- In her new book, East Meets West, which features Vancouver's Asian food scene, author Stephanie Yuen has included chapters covering Asian ingredients and tips for cooking and serving, as well as 88 restaurant recipes for dim sum, soups, vegetables, rice, noodles and desserts.
- Most appealing is the guide to the location of supermarkets and eateries along with their websites.
- Yuen can also be found writing about Asian food on her blog, beyondchopsticks.com.

Archaeology

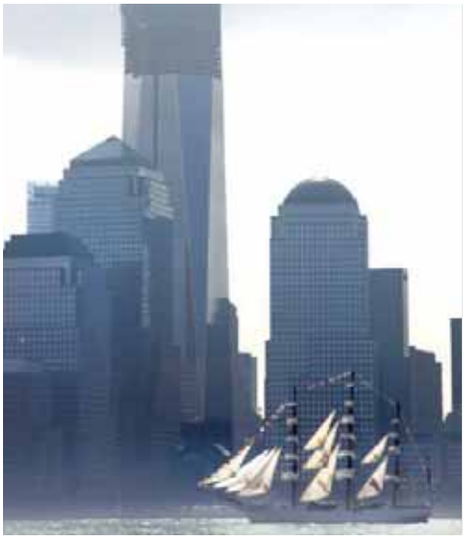
'Bethlehem' seal found in Israel

Israeli archaeologists have discovered a 2,700-year-old seal that bears the inscription "Bethlehem," the Israel Antiquities Authority announced Wednesday, in what experts believe to be the oldest artifact with the name of Jesus' traditional birthplace.

The tiny clay seal's existence and age provide vivid evidence that Bethlehem was not just the name of a fabled biblical town, but also a bustling place of trade linked to the nearby city of Jerusalem, archaeologists said.

Eli Shukron, the authority's director of excavations, said the find was significant because it is the first time the name Bethlehem appears outside of a biblical text from that period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Skyscrapers and sail power

A ship travels past the World Trade Center site as seen from Jersey City, N.J., on Wednesday. Naval vessels ranging from a U.S. amphibious assault ship to a Finnish minelayer are participating in New York City's Fleet Week. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sasquatch science. Wanted: A few strands of Bigfoot's hair

European researchers are planning to use new techniques to analyze DNA that could help crack the mystery of whether Bigfoot exists.

In a project announced this week, Oxford University and Lausanne Museum of Zoology scientists appealed to museums, scientists and Yeti aficionados to share hair samples thought to be from the mythical ape-like creature.

New genetic tests will be done on just a few strands of hair and should be completed within weeks. Even if the sample is judged to come from an unknown species, scientists should be able to tell how closely it is related to other species, including apes or humans.

Bryan Sykes of Oxford University said the group had already received many offers of samples to test, including blood, hair, and items supposedly chewed by Bigfoot. Sykes and colleagues plan to sift through the samples for the next few months before deciding which specimens to test. They will then publish their results in a peer-reviewed journal.

Volunteer guide Al Hodgson holds up a plaster cast of a Bigfoot imprint at the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum in Willow Creek, Calif., in 2000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Other experts agreed recent advances made in DNA testing could theoretically solve the Bigfoot question.

"If the Yeti is real and somebody has found bits of their hair, you should be able to tell from the DNA in the hair if this is actually a Yeti," said Mark Thomas, a professor of evolutionary genetics at University College London. He is not connected to the Bigfoot project.

Some scientists theorize Yetis are either a distinct hominid species, or a mix between homo sapiens and Neanderthals or other species. There is already evidence of interbreeding between homo sapiens and Neanderthals. "If Yetis have survived for the last 30,000 years, they have probably had a pretty miserable existence and are a small population vulnerable to extinction," Thomas said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Struggling industry. Russian PM takes lessons from U.S. cattle farmers

Russia's prime minister has visited a cattle farm where some American cowboys are working to help Russians develop their struggling meat industry.

Dmitry Medvedev chatted with one cowboy from Idaho, who introduced him to his young son and wife.

Medvedev asked whether they had managed to learn to speak any Russian, and the man said that other than "please" and "thank you," the most important words in his Russian vocabulary were those needed for taking care of the cattle: "Open the gate" and "close the gate."

Medvedev's visit Wednesday was shown on Russian television, but the names of the Americans were not given.

The farm in the Bryansk region has more than 7,000 head of Angus cattle, many of them imported from the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slave Lake. Will and Kate reach out one year later

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have reached out to residents of Slave Lake, Alta., noting their strength one year after wildfires destroyed one-third of their town.

William and Catherine sent a letter to the community expressing their greetings and best wishes.

"One year on from the disastrous fire that ravaged your town, Catherine and I send you, the people of Slave Lake, our heartfelt best wishes, in the hope and knowledge that through your fortitude and unquenchable spirit the recovery of your beautiful town is progressing well," the Prince wrote in a letter postmarked St. James's Palace.

The Royal couple toured the devastated town last July. In their letter, Will and Kate also say they remember and admire how the town met this great challenge of nature.

The Town of Slave Lake has posted the royal letter on its website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge look at a burned-out car in Slave Lake, Alta., in this July 6, 2011, file photo. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indian state allows guards to shoot poachers

A tiger is pictured at the reserve in Corbett National Park, India. CORBETT TIGER RESERVE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maharashtra. It's unclear whether other states will also begin to target hunters

A state in western India has declared war on animal poaching by allowing forest guards to shoot hunters on sight in an effort to curb rampant attacks on tigers and other wildlife.

The government in Maharashtra says injuring or killing suspected poachers will no longer be considered a crime.

Forest guards should not be "booked for human-rights violations when they have taken action against poachers," Maharashtra Forest Minister Patangrao Kadam said Tuesday. The state also will send more rangers and jeeps into the forest, and will offer secret payments to informers who give tips about poachers and animal smugglers, he said.

No tiger poachers have ever been shot in Maharashtra, though cases of illegal loggers and fishermen being shot have led to charges against forest guards, according to the state's chief wildlife warden, S.W.H. Naqvi.

But the threat could act as a significant deterrent to wildlife criminals, conservationists said. A similar measure allowing guards to fire on poachers in Assam has helped the northeast state's population of endangered one-horned rhinos recover.

"These poachers have lost all fear. They just go in and poach what they want because they know the risks are low," said Divyabhanusinh Chavda, who heads the World Wildlife Fund in India and is a key member of the National Wildlife Board, which advises the prime minister. In many of India's reserves, guards are armed with little more than sticks.

Illegal poaching remains a stubborn and serious threat, with tiger parts in particular fetching high prices on the black market because of demand driven by traditional Chinese medicine practitioners.

According to the Wildlife Protection Society of India, 14 tigers have been killed by poachers in India so far this year — one more than in all of 2011. The tiger is considered endangered, with its habitat shrinking more than 50 per cent in the last quarter-century while its numbers declined from an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 in the 1990s, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Eight of this year's tiger-poaching deaths in India occurred in Maharashtra, including one whose body was found last week chopped into pieces with its head and paws missing in Tadoba Tiger Reserve. Forest officials have also found traps in the reserve, where about 40 tigers live.

Naqvi said encounters between Maharashtra's forest guards and poachers were rare because poachers generally hunt the nocturnal big cats at night. He said the state's offer to pay informers from a new fund worth about $90,000 US would likely be more effective.

"We get very few tips, so this will really help," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Intense scrutiny

3,200

India faces intense international scrutiny over its tiger conservation, as it holds half of the world's estimated 3,200 tigers in dozens of wildlife reserves set up since the 1970s, when hunting was banned.

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Facebook. Stock climbs as investors file lawsuits

Facebook's fourth day of trading as a public company saw an increase in the company's stock price and shareholder lawsuits related to the social network's botched initial public offering.

Facebook's stock climbed $1, or 3.2 per cent, to close at $32 on Wednesday. But the gain was only a small reprieve for shareholders. The stock's rocky inaugural trading day Friday was followed by a two-day decline. The stock is still trading nearly 16 per cent below its $38 IPO price.

The initial public trading of Facebook's stock was tarnished Friday morning by a half-hour delay, caused by glitches on the Nasdaq.

It was marred further this week as investors began accusing the banks that arranged the IPO of sharing important information about Facebook's business prospects with some clients and not others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investigation

Regulators are examining whether Morgan Stanley selectively informed clients of an analyst's negative report about Facebook before the stock started trading.

- The bank said that it "followed the same procedures for the Facebook offering that it follows for all IPOs," and that its procedures complied with regulations.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.64¢ (-0.23¢)

TSX 11,564.8 (+113.01)

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GOLD $1,548.40 US (+$28.20)

Natural gas: $2.737 US (+3¢)
Dow Jones: 12,496.15 (-6.66)

Mulcair's energy views harmful to the economy: Clement

Oilsands. Treasury Board president takes aim at NDP leader's claims during speech in Calgary

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair says that booming energy exports have created an artificially high dollar. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Treasury Board President Tony Clement used a speech in the heart of Canada's oil and gas sector to launch an attack on NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair and his dim view of Canada's resource industry.

Mulcair charges that booming energy exports, particularly from the oilsands, have created an artificially high dollar that has, in turn, hollowed out Canada's manufacturing sector — a phenomenon dubbed the "Dutch disease."

"This is a reckless and irresponsible ideology that is bad for Alberta, it's bad for my home province of Ontario and quite frankly, it's bad for Canada," Clement said Wednesday in a morning speech to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

Mulcair has insisted that statistics on manufacturing job losses are "irrefutable"' and that "everyone" agrees more than half of those losses are the direct result of the artificially high Canadian dollar created by booming energy exports, particularly from Alberta's oilsands.

Clement said the only logical conclusion from Mulcair's musings would be that the NDP would "undoubtedly cripple an important and growing sector in Canada's economy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEET rate

Canadian youth in better shape than most in G7, study finds

Canada's youth are more likely to be working or seeking an education than many of their counterparts in other G7 nations, the country's leading statistical agency suggested Wednesday.

A new study from Statistics Canada analyzed the working and educational paths of people aged 15 to 29 in a bid to assess youth engagement with the labour force.

The study found that 13 per cent of the 6.8-million Canadians in the age bracket were not in education, employment or training — a measurement known as the NEET rate.

That score is the second-lowest among G7 nations, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Only Germany boasts a lower NEET rating of 11.6 per cent, while Italy registered the highest rating of 21.2 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Banking

BMO posts rise in Q2 profits

Bank of Montreal kicked off bank earnings season Wednesday with a 27 per cent rise in second-quarter profits as the bank beat analyst expectations on stronger results in both its U.S. and Canadian retail operations.

BMO said net income rose to nearly $1.03 billion, or $1.51 per share, for the three months ended April 30, an increase of $215 million from the same time last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DVD kiosks

Redbox coming to Canada in June

Redbox, the DVD-rental kiosk company that gives consumers a cheap alternative to video stores, plans to make its long-awaited debut in Canada next month. A spokeswoman says the movie rental company has secured agreements to set up kiosks at Walmart retail stores and convenience stores operated by Alimentation Couche-Tard. The pilot project will be focused on the Toronto and Vancouver markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kraft shareholders approve 'Mondelez' name

Kraft Foods says shareholders approved the name "Mondelez" for its new global snack food business, which may put to rest the snickering that initially greeted the name.

The Northfield, Illinois-based company said Wednesday the name was approved by more than 90 per cent of shareholders who cast a vote.

The name — pronounced mon-dah-LEEZ — will take effect when the company officially splits into two publicly traded companies later this year.

Mondelez International Inc. will be home to many of the company's well-known global brands, including Oreo, Cadbury, Nabisco, Tang and Trident.

The North American grocery business will continue to carry the name Kraft and include classic brands like Velveeta, Miracle Whip and Oscar Mayer.

Kraft on Wednesday also unveiled the logo for Mondelez, which illustrates the company name in a custom-made purple font with red accents on either side.

When the name was first unveiled in March, Kraft carefully explained that it was an amalgamation of the Latin word for "world" and an interpretation of the word "delicious."

It nevertheless became a ready punchline for online commentators and the media, with a recent New York Post headline reading "MONDEWHAAAAT?" and Crain's Chicago Business newspaper suggesting it bore resemblance to a Russian term for a sexual act.

With the new company, Kraft is aiming to take on competitors in the rapidly growing international snack-food market.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Name game

- Despite the mockery, Mondelez was the result of a four-month process that started in November when Kraft held an in-house contest to name the new company.
- The top candidates from a list of 1,700 entries were vetted in 28 different languages to ensure they didn't have any negative connotations.

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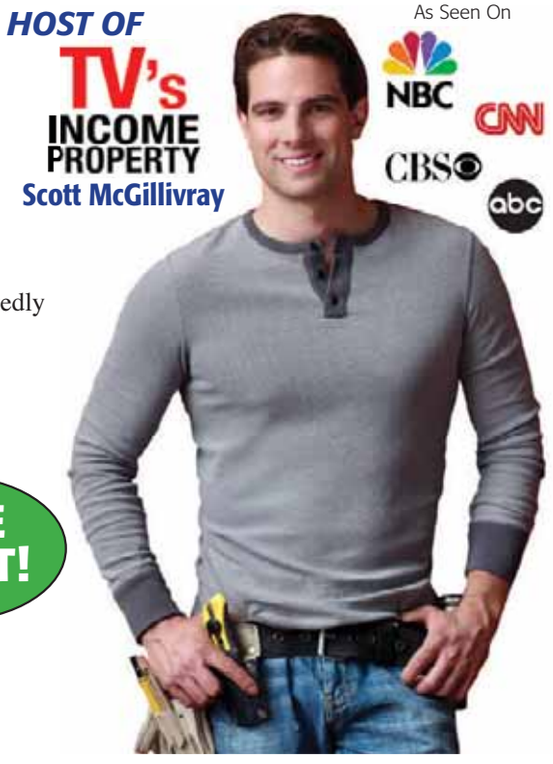

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BBC host says Morgan gave phone-hacking pointers

Ethics inquiry. Former Mirror newspaper worker divulges alleged eavesdropping expertise of his old boss and current CNN host

A prominent British TV presenter says CNN talk-show host Piers Morgan gave him a primer on phone hacking, a revelation that suggests he knew a fair amount about how the shady practice was carried out.

BBC quiz-show host and television news presenter Jeremy Paxman told a media ethics inquiry Wednesday that Morgan delivered his warning over lunch at the headquarters of the Mirror newspaper, which he was then editing, in 2002.

Paxman said that Morgan "turned to me and said, 'Have you got a mobile phone?'"

"He then explained the way to get access to people's messages was to go to the factory default setting and press either 0000 or 1234 and that if you didn't put on your own code, (in) his words, 'You're a fool.'"

Paxman testified before Lord Justice Brian Leveson, who is sifting through the fallout of the scandal over unethical and illegal behaviour at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World newspaper, which Morgan also briefly edited. Morgan testified before Leveson late last year, suggesting he'd only been aware of phone hacking in general terms and had merely been repeating gossip he picked off the industry's rumour mill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tweeting mad

"That's the last time I'm inviting Jeremy Paxman to lunch ... ungrateful little wretch."

CNN talk-show host Piers Morgan, responding on his Twitter account to former journalist Jeremy Paxman's testimony that Morgan gave him tips on hacking cellphones

In this file photo, Piers Morgan, host of CNN's Piers Morgan Tonight, leaves the CNN building in Los Angeles. Prominent British television presenter Jeremy Paxman has told an official inquiry that Morgan once gave him pointers on how to hack a mobile phone. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU in peril. Pressure mounting to solve economic crisis

Europe's leaders gathered in Brussels Wednesday under mounting pressure to soften their tough-love approach to the weaker economies among them. With Greece locked in political chaos, much bigger Spain warns it can't keep afloat without help, as stock markets around the world tank over fears the leaders won't have the political will to act.

The summit will have to fight multiple fires: Political uncertainty in Greece that could see it renege on commitments made to secure rescue loans; rising borrowing costs in Spain and Italy that could force them to seek bailouts; and sluggish growth across the region exacerbated by budget cuts meant to reassure markets about high debt levels.

Leaders have said that everything will be on the table, including a discussion about whether 17 countries that use the euro should borrow money jointly — issuing so-called "eurobonds."

Europe's main stock indexes plunged more than two per cent on Wednesday. The euro fell 0.8 per cent to $1.2561 US, its lowest in nearly two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The pain in Spain

"Europe has to come up with an answer.... We cannot go on like this."

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, warning his country cannot continue with its current high borrowing rates

Boardroom. Martha Stewart assumes strategic role at firm

Martha Stewart was named as non-executive chair of the lifestyle, media and merchandising company that she created Wednesday.

Stewart rejoined the board of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. in September at the end of a five-year ban on serving as a board member or as an executive of a public company as part a settlement with federal regulators related to insider trading.

As non-executive chair, Stewart will help set the direction for the business but will have no direct operating role. An executive chairperson would typically also hold a top management role such as being CEO.

Stewart was convicted in 2004 on federal criminal charges of lying to prosecutors about selling ImClone shares a day before the Food and Drug Administration announced it declined to review an ImClone application for a cancer drug. She served five months in prison.

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FOUNDER CAN FALL FLAT ON HIS FACEBOOK

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Here's a status update of sorts: I have what psychologists have long recognized as the innate desire in most human beings to see Facebook fail horribly — otherwise known as Schadenfacebook.

I'm not alone. As I type this, the "most popular" news stories on the web involve the words Facebook, IPO and fiasco. I'm not business-minded, so IPOs are foreign to me. However, I'm familiar with New Brunswick, Ontario and federal politics, so I know all about fiascos.

I didn't know I had Schadenfacebook until the stock started to slip. Then I discovered I wanted to see its rating plummet from "buy" to "sell" to "drachma" all the way down to "same worth as Netscape Navigator." The more screwed up the situation gets, the happier I become.

"Why the hate for FB?" a friend messaged me after I'd ranted about my glee online. I can only assume his wink emoticon was implied.

How do I hate Facebook? Let me count the ways.

Faceplant

There's the way FB assumes that your life is a pristine experience that you would want documented in full detail on your timeline, including your drunkest photos and your whiniest posts.

There's the way FB assumes that your life is a pristine experience that you would want documented in full detail on your timeline, including your drunkest photos and your whiniest posts. When I got divorced, my news feed said, "John is now single" with a happy little heart.

There's also Facebook's amorphous privacy settings, which distract from the truth that the site has no privacy at all. Would anyone really be surprised if Facebook one day undeleted all that we've deleted and released all our chat messages, perhaps as a "service" when we've died? "Learn about Grandma's affair! Only $9.99!"

Or how about the way FB friends can add you to events without permission, so you're suddenly getting postings from some group you don't actually support, like the Man-Gorilla Love Association or an Evening of Serviceable Green Day Covers?

And there's CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who combines all the worst traits of various cliques and creates his own sort of Franken-niche — the businessman-nerd-bully — all while jealously guarding his privacy in a thermonuclear example of irony.

But very worst of all, after all these complaints, *I can't stop using it.* It knows my weaknesses. It knew I couldn't resist Facebook once my email inbox was filled with requests to join. It knows I'm too lazy to remember a password for a newspaper's sports section, so I login through Facebook. It knows that asking for creative feedback on Facebook is easier than talking to people individually, even if it's not better.

Apple, for all its flaws, seems to understand what people want. Facebook knows what they will put up with.

So crash and burn, Facebook. Crash like a North Korean rocket. And, when it all lies in pieces, feel free to add the event to your timeline. With all this Schadenfacebook, I'll be sure to like it.

I like you, Facebook. I also like watching you fail. GETTY IMAGES

South African art attack

GETTY IMAGES

Painting defaced

Smear campaign hits president

Two men appeared in a Johannesburg court on Wednesday, accused of defacing a controversial painting of South African President Jacob Zuma. Barend la Grange, 58, and Louis Mabokela, 25, allegedly smeared paint on The Spear by activist Brett Murray, which caused offence by showing the president's genitals. METRO

Backlash

"The portrayal has ridiculed and caused me humiliation and indignity."

Jacob Zuma, president of South Africa
The president has reacted furiously to the satire of his alleged promiscuity. Zuma has fathered 21 children from six marriages, and was acquitted of a rape charge in 2006. His party, the African National Congress, is planning to sue Brett Murray.

Other art protests

- **Banksy.** The anonymous British street artist stencilled "mind the crap" signs outside the Turner Prize exhibition in 2001.
- **P183.** A Russian graffiti artist has created a series of eye-catching murals attacking President Vladimir Putin.
- **Liberate Tate** protested the gallery's links to petrol companies by having a naked activist lie on the floor covered in oil.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does a new study that says coffee may help you live longer make you want to up your java quotient?

Twitter

@TSNBobMcKenzie:
VAN announces coach Alain Vigneault has been signed to a contract extension.

@szalowski35:
No surprise that Alain Vigneault didn't get fired, he coached a team into 1st place

@NikFatoric13:
Cross Alain Vigneault off the coaching list. AV signs contract extension in Vancouver #TSN

@nicoleeed:
told you Alain Vigneault wasn't going anywhere... beattt ittt @Avramenko01

@Zach_Brown12:
Im really glad Alain Vigneault got signed to a contract extension!! #canucks #gocanucksgo #contractextension #vancoach

@Noosiekins:
Good to know they're sticking w/ him... RT @sportsnetmurph: #canucks have signed Alain Vigneault to a contract extension.

metro

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2

SCENE

Celebrity buzz

Bieber tour announced

With his much anticipated new disc Believe about to drop, Justin Bieber has announced an extensive North American tour that will include seven Canadian dates.

The Stratford, Ont., native will kick off his nearly four-month trek on Sept. 29 in Glendale, Ariz., and wrap up on Jan. 26 at Miami's American Airlines Arena. Along the way, the 18-year-old will play shows in Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Kanye West leads with 7 nods at BET Awards, Beyoncé follows with 6; Samuel L. Jackson to host.

Kutz & Dawgs (for ages 10 and up) was commissioned by the Vancouver International Children's Festival and takes its inspiration from Romeo and Juliet. It has a daytime and two evening shows, May 31 and June 1. AMANDA SKUSE/SUBMITTED

From Pete the Cat to The Itch of the Golden Nit

Vancouver International Children's Festival. Celebrating 35 years, kids' fest still young at heart

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Vancouver International Children's Festival celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, which, if you're keeping score (who's keeping score?) means it's almost as old as me. You know, if it were seven years older.

But, hey, we've got more than just a birthday in the 70s in common. For example: we've both gotten bigger through the years. And we'll both always be young at heart.

Then again, judging by this year's slate of performers, the kids' fest has got way more personality. It features performing artists from around the world, storytelling as a theme, and 15 shows in eight venues on Granville Island, including five indoor and two outdoor, and one free outdoor stage.

Highlights of this year's festival include: Pete the Cat, by Eric Litwin — The popular star of the bestseller Pete the Cat, I love my White Shoes comes alive in a show created for preschoolers. Guitar, harmonica, banjo and folksy fun.

The Puppet & Its Double Theatre — A renowned Taiwanese company making the longest trip of any for the children's festival. That's nice of them, don't you think? Maybe go see them and say thanks for coming.

The Itch of the Golden Nit — That just rolls of the tongue nicely, doesn't it? Created for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad by the Tate Modern with Aardman Animation (Wallace & Gromit), the project involved more than 34,000 British school kids to create the artwork and conceive the storyline for what's said to be a hilarious short film. Don't worry, they left the 34,000 British kids at home so you can still bring your own.

ZooZoo — Performers don incredible masks and transform themselves into penguins playing musical chairs, a cat trapped in a giant paper bag, insomniac hippos, and more.

The deets:

The VICF takes place from May 29 to June 3 on Granville Island. Visit childrensfestival.ca for more information.

Élage Diouf — Juno Award-winning singer, percussionist and all-around wonderful contemporary African music performer. Diouf spins stories through music in French, English and Wolof. A special evening of world music. Oh, and this one's licensed, so no minors.

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Killing Them Softly.
Brad Pitt stars in a modern-day U.S. fable

Brad Pitt is gangster Jackie Cogan in Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

One year after his Best Picture nominee Tree of Life, Brad Pitt is back in Cannes, and in the competition with Killing Them Softly by New-Zealander Andrew Dominik (who teamed with Pitt on The Assassination of Jesse James...).

Based on a novel by George V. Higgins, the film is set in the middle of the 2006 U.S. election campaign. In a small anonymous town, crippled by the financial meltdown. Gangster Jackie Cogan (a slick Brad Pitt) is made to find the men behind a recent hold up following an illegal poker game. "Although on the surface the film is a bit old school, we wanted the story to reflect events that are happening today," Brad Pitt told the press at Cannes.

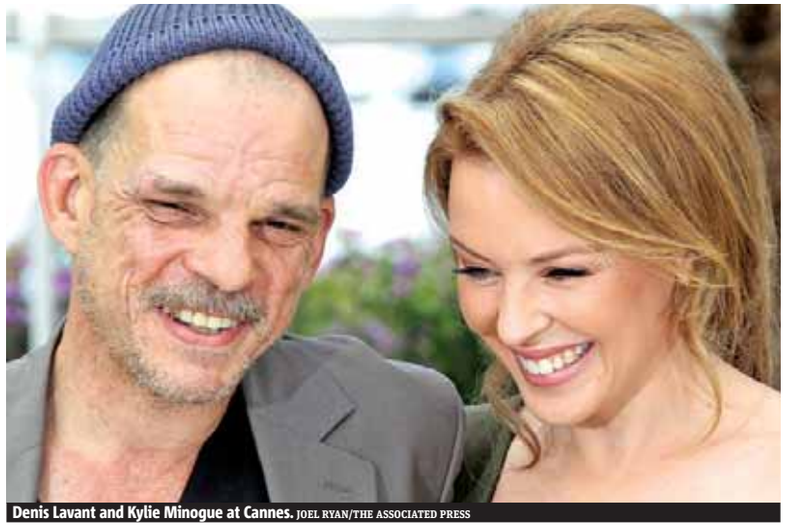
What Dominik's comical, philosophical dialogue helps paint is the picture of an America that is losing its values.

Pitt denies that the film praises violence. On the contrary. "We live in a world where violence is a constant presence. For gangsters, it's the norm. I admit I would find it harder playing a racist than a man that shoots people in the head," he laughs.

JÉRÔME VERMELIN,
METRO WORLD NEWS IN CANNES

Surreal Paris romp has Cannes going gaga

Holy Motors.
Audience loves film by French director Leos Carax, while critics are divided: It's been given five stars and called a 'weird-out'



Denis Lavant and Kylie Minogue at Cannes. JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holy cow. The most rapturous audience reception at the Cannes Film Festival has gone to Holy Motors, a disorienting, whirling dream of a movie by French director Leos Carax.

Starring Denis Lavant as a man who adopts a dozen wildly different personas during the course of a long Paris day, the film includes surrealist scenes, tender moments, a song by pop star Kylie Minogue and the unexpected appearance of bonobo monkeys.

The film, which has its red-carpet gala on Wednesday, drew whoops and cheers at the end of its first press screening — but left other baffled viewers shaking their heads.

"This is what we have all come to Cannes for," said The Guardian newspaper's ecstatic five-star review. Screen International was less impressed, judging the film "a self-conscious upmarket weird-out."

Holy Motors is Carax' first feature since the experimental romance Pola X, which screened at Cannes in 1999, to equally divided opinion. Holy Motors is one of 22 films competing for the festival's Palme d'Or.

It's a dramatic return — but don't ask Carax what he wants the public to take away from the film.

"I don't know. Who is the public? All I know is that it is a bunch of people who will be dead very soon," said the director.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monkey business

Thespian thoughts

In Holy Motors, Lavant portrays, among other characters, a beggar woman, a dying old man, a knife-wielding killer and a filthy gnome dragging a supermodel (Eva Mendes) through the city's sewers.

He said the hardest scene was the one in which his character interacts with the two monkeys. "That was a bit scary," Lavant said. "Whoever you are acting with in a film, there are a lot of things that are unknown, but there's sort of an unacknowledged code. We share the same code of communication among human beings. When you're acting with a bonobo monkey it's much more difficult."

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Scrounging up scares on a tight budget

Chernobyl Diaries. Director of Paranormal Activity tries his hand at a bigger-budget flick, but he still likes the challenge of working on the cheap

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

What happens when a group of friends go on an 'extreme' tour of Pripyat? HANDOUT

Israeli-born filmmaker Oren Peli made a name for himself with Paranormal Activity, the 2009 found-footage phenomenon that cost $15,000 to produce and went on to make $194 million worldwide — making it the most profitable film of all time. While the budget for his latest film, Chernobyl Diaries, isn't that small, he still aims to keep things on the inexpensive side. Chernobyl Diaries follows a group of friends on an "extreme tourism" trip into Pripyat, the Ukrainian town abandoned after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

Did you visit Pripyat yourself before making this film?
No. Actually, when we started getting into it, we were thinking not only of visiting it, but we actually wanted to shoot some of the movie there, which we thought makes sense. Why not? The set is already there. But for whatever reason, the Ukrainian government in 2011 stopped allowing people to go in there. So for a long period of time while we were shooting the movie, there was no access there. We were thinking it ironically parallels the movie, thinking maybe there's a secret entrance we can sneak into the town through.

With such sophisticated horror audiences these days, how do you approach trying to scare them?
Well, there's all sorts of different scares, and Chernobyl Diaries has a variety of them. There's a few jump scares. But the thing that really works for me the best is the patient anticipation of things, and the idea of a loss of control and fear of the unknown. We tried to combine a lot of that in the movie. The whole sense of not knowing what you're dealing with, the fear of the unknown and the feeling of being helpless and not having any control over your own destiny, to me that's the kind of thing that's really the essence of a lot of horror movies.

You found success with Paranormal Activity, which was made on a tiny budget. Does that reputation of being able to do a lot with a little get in your way now?
The budget factor, it definitely makes a lot of things challenging, and you always wish you had a little bit more here and there, but I don't know if I'll ever see myself making a really, really big-budget movie. I kind of like in many ways the restraints of doing things on a small budget, because I think it ends up maybe to some degree making the movie feel more intimate and makes you feel like you have to be more creative about finding practical solutions to do things — which end up in many cases feeling more real than if you did something very elaborate and grandiose.

Decoding 007. Metro analyzes Skyfall's cryptic new trailer

Bond still has a way with the ladies. Oh, and some men are trying to kill him, according to the new Skyfall trailer. HANDOUT

Teaser trailers can be rather cryptic at times, and the new Skyfall trailer isn't any different. Audiences got a taste of the Sam Mendes-helmed film, which will mark the 23rd James Bond film. Here's what we gleaned from the short clip.

Straight from 007's mouth
Some men are coming to kill James Bond and his colleagues, but he plans to kill them first.

Asia-bound
At one point in the film, it seems that Bond (Daniel Craig) will travel to China — or at the very least, an area that is celebrating a very elaborate Chinese New Year celebration.

Dame M (Judi Dench)
Well, she's still around to keep 007 in line. And, hints through interviews show that she may be the central part of this movie.

An Aston Martin DB5
The car is captured in one of the shots, and it seems that all the cars seem pretty modern. A scene of a crashing Metro train confirms that these events are all occurring in the modern day or at a date that is more recent than in a past decade.

What's skyfall?
According to a conditioned response test given to Bond by a man who looks like a stereotypical psychiatrist, "skyfall" is something Bond doesn't want to talk about. Was it code for a mission done wrong?

Doom and gloom
There will be a lot of deaths, hinted at by the caskets draped with British flags.

Oh Javier
We get one shot of Javier Bardem, who is confirmed to play the Bond villain in this film. He's walking away from a building he just set on fire.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bond girls

What about the ladies?

There will be an intensely erotic shaving scene with a woman played by Naomie Harris. But, just a few seconds before, we get a glimpse of Bérénice Marlohe, another Bond girl, standing in a hotel room. Both of these women prove that despite the years and the different actors, Bond still has his way with the ladies.

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Fox to have baby girl: Report

Megan Fox is reportedly pregnant — and it's a girl, according to Star magazine.

"She's been helping to raise (husband) Brian (Austin Green)'s 10-year-old son, Kassius, for years, and now she'll have the experience of being mommy to a little girl," a source says.

"Obviously, Megan and Brian would be happy with a healthy baby of either gender, but they're beyond thrilled that Kassius is going to have a little sister."

It looks like it'll be a busy autumn for the Transformers star. "She'll be due at the very end of September or the first week in October," the source adds.

"Megan is attached to a movie called Swindle, but it's in rewrites and probably won't even begin filming until next year. So right now her plate is totally clean, and she can devote herself to her baby."

Perry bares all

Katy Perry knew it would be impossible to avoid mention of her 14-month marriage to Russell Brand in her upcoming tour documentary, Katy Perry: Part of Me, so she addressed it head-on.

"I thought it was important to show everything in between. I think sometimes people think that we're perfect, and we know we're not perfect, at all," Perry explains to Ellen DeGeneres in an interview.

"It's important to start breaking down the idea that to achieve your dreams, you always have to be perfect or flawless or live in some kind of fantasy world. That's why I decided to put everything into the film. In the most tasteful way."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Britney Spears has needs... like fried chicken

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

Britney Spears may be making $15 million for gracing the judges table on X Factor, but she still doesn't intend to put out her own snack money.

Details from the singer's contract have leaked, and she has some very specific requests as far as dressing room needs are concerned. Every day, she'll require fried chicken (legs and breasts only), 12 Snickers bars, 24 cans of Coke, 10 snack size bags of Doritos and 12 vases of Magnolia blossoms — give or take a basket of baby white lion cubs, depending what source you're going with.

Not that all of this junk food is exclusively for Spears, who has reportedly been hitting the gym before cameras start rolling. She's also requested a 24-member staff that includes a beauty team, a massage therapist and a "spiritual adviser."

How sweet would it be to serve as Spears' spiritual adviser? You know you could just toss this chick a couple mood rings and spend the next seven-and-a-half hours eating her Doritos.

Lady Gaga ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Gaga speaks out on protests

At a tour stop in Manila, Lady Gaga took a moment to address the recent protests that have been waged against her — leading to her not being allowed to perform in Jakarta, Indonesia.

She's also drawn protest from Biblemode Youth, a Christian group that called for an end to her shows in the Philippines.

"Some people think that I stand for like, really inappropriate things," she told the crowd, according to Hollyscoop.

"The truth is I want the f--ing best for you. I want the best for every single one of you. I love you with all of my heart and all my soul, I really do."

As for stirring up controversy while in the Philippines, Gaga doesn't seem too concerned: "Don't worry, if I get thrown in jail in Manila, Beyoncé will just bail me out," she posted on Twitter this week. "Sold out night two in the Philippines. I love it here!"

Kelly's happy for a change

Kelly Clarkson has gotten some of her best material for songs from bad breakups, and now that she's in a happy, stable relationship, she worries her work is suffering.

"It is killing me. I'm trying to write a tough song and it is coming out like butterflies and rainbows," Clarkson, who has been in a relationship since late last year, tells People magazine.

"It is ruining my creativity. I'm writing all this happy (stuff). People are going to be, like, 'What the hell happened to you?'" It has been really difficult. I love it. It's an awesome problem to have."

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Men: get your threads in print (it worked for me)

Wearing it. Bright, bold and a bit on the brash side, it's got to be the Hawaiian shirt. I give the look a go to see if I can move beyond the gawping and get the girl.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

I know what you're thinking: this guy is only a few gold medallions away from being a fugitive living on the Costa del Sol. Yep, the Hawaiian shirt has had some pretty damning press over the years, namely due to the fact that the in-your-face print is commonly sported by stag parties, who probably half hope that the disruptive pattern will mask the vomit stains.

Having tried the Hawaiian look, I've got to say that my skepticism about the trend has far from diminished. There was a slew of verbal abuse from colleagues and speculation that I was heading to the touristy end of town.

Hardly the encouragement I needed, seeing as I was to don my best "babe magnet" shirt at a bar, later that day.

That said, I wouldn't be writing about this trend had it not blossomed on the spring /summer'12 runways. Givenchy, Moschino, Richard Chai, followed by high street brands such as Topman, ASOS, and Levi's have all created their own riff on the look with surging sales, apparently.

The fact is that nowadays men are more daring when it comes to colour and print. Maybe it's a counter-reaction to Noughties minimalism — or perhaps we're all in need of something a little bit wild in this austerity era.

Personally, I think that men are becoming savvy in terms of cut and design as opposed to demonstrating their fashion prowess by — often tastelessly — flashing designer labels.

However, I was about to put my hibiscus leaf-gilded masculinity to the test at a Mexican-style bar in central London.

I hoped to channel the charm and ease with which George Clooney works the Hawaiian shirt in The Descendants — as I approached a girl at the bar. But no, I wasn't smooth. I felt like a sleazy '80s hustler minus the silver tongue.

Whilst I awkwardly stuttered, an eavesdropping onlooker, who had clearly clocked my intentions, piped up: "That shirt's a blessing if you can get a nice girl like her." What? An indirect compliment, I thought, but I'll take it nonetheless.

The good life: chilling at the bar with a beer in Topman's palm leaf pattern shirt. NICK CUNARD/METRO WORLD NEWS

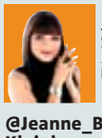
Smiles all round in Topman's horizontal palms, short-sleeve shirt. NICK CUNARD/METRO WORLD NEWS

The name game

"Givenchy, Moschino, Richard Chai, followed by high-street brands such as Topman, ASOS, and Levi's have all created their own riff on the look with surging sales, apparently."

Richard Peckett on the Hawaiian shirt

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

@Jeanne_Beker: in Kleinburg, Ont. to cover the new Fashionality exhibit, about the relationship of art + fashion. Hosting fundraiser June 16.

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@Jeanne_Beker: Nfld. artist Barbara Pratt's "Garden Party: Dress by Manish Arora.... At Fashionality

@Jeanne_Beker: A cut steel "Root Dress" by Barb Hunt, at Fashionality

@Jeanne_Beker: Hundreds of tiny hand-knit sweaters by artist Michele Karch-Ackerman at Fashionality

3 LIFE

Fashion flash

Eau de teen icon

Justin Bieber was honoured alongside top fashion names like Tom Ford and Gucci at the Fragrance Foundation's annual Fifi awards for the best perfumes.
Tom Ford's Violet Blonde was picked as the women's best luxury fragrance, and Gucci Guilty Pour Homme in the same category for men.
Bieber was named the Elizabeth Taylor Fragrance Celebrity of the Year.

For broad appeal, Heidi Klum's Shine won for women and Curve Appeal by Elizabeth Arden won for men.

The industry group put on the ceremony Monday night with Jane Lynch as emcee.

"I'm honoured to be here tonight to serve as your host. Selecting me as host makes perfect sense, because when you think of a sexy, delicate and floral fragrance, you think, 'Jane Lynch,"' she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Claire Pettibone says Facebook bride Priscilla Chan wore her lacy sheath

Keep your closet organized

Mornings are much more fun with a tidy closet. CONTRIBUTED

Expert help. It's a little bit of a master closet cleaning, plus an overhaul of the way you approach getting dressed — the author of Shop Your Closet helps us out

TINA CHADHA
life@metronews.ca

Think about how nice those colour-coded racks look in your favourite clothing retailer. And then imagine how much easier it would be getting dressed in the morning if your own wardrobe were as organized instead of stuffed with old sweaters you haven't worn in years.

Remember how stressed out and irritated you get rummaging through tangled hangers for that blazer that was just staring you in the face days ago?

Melanie Fascitelli, author of Shop Your Closet, shows us how to organize.

Edit your wardrobe

"The first thing you need to do is get yourself a partner, someone you trust, to help you edit," says Fascitelli.

Melanie Fascitelli CONTRIBUTED

Re-use and recycle

Once you figure out what you're keeping and what's going, find a consignment store. "It's green — you're recycling your clothing," says Fascitelli, who likes Linda's Stuff on eBay. She also suggests giving directly to a charity.

"This person is someone who is going to tell you the truth, whose style you admire and who has a good eye for your own personal style. Editing or culling your wardrobe is not only about finding things that you haven't worn in one or two years but also asking, 'Would I buy this today?'"

Get rid of that bridesmaid dress already

"Editing or culling your wardrobe is not only about finding things that you haven't worn in one of two years but also asking, 'Would I buy this today?'"

Melanie Fascitelli, author of Shop Your Closet

Colour code

Sort your clothes by colour and type. Keep pants with pants and skirts with skirts, and then organize each category from light to dark, says Fascitelli.

"This is a visual merchandising trick that makes your eye follow the colour. It's easier to get to your stuff this way."

It's all about the hangers

"The least expensive thing you can do to get your closet organized and cleaned up is to buy all the same style and colour hanger," says Fascitelli, who prefers using a neutral colour.

For her product line, Clos-ette Too, she says they spent years developing the perfect hanger.

"It's a skinny, soft hanger in five different styles for all different types of garments," she says of the end product.

"And they have very short drops, so you're not just saving on horizontal space but vertical [too]."

To fold or to hang?

The general rule is "hang everything you can," says Fascitelli.

If you don't have too much space on your closet rod, the items she specifically feels should be hung are coats, pants, dresses, suits, tailored shirts, silk blouses and gowns. The best items to fold are tees and delicates.

Closet savers

Fragrance satchels

Pretty storage boxes

Drawer liners

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Laundry lessons

Tackling grass stains

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

All that grass is a stain-removal challenge waiting to happen. ISTOCK IMAGES

Dear Charles the butler,
Please help!
With summer in the air, and my children starting to play outside, how do I get the grass stains out of their clothing?
Desperate mother

Dear Desperate mother,
Do not fear! There is a solution! As with all stain removal, it comes down to a little knowledge of chemistry. I stopped taking chemistry in Grade 10 (big mistake!).

Now, deep breath, this is actually relatively easy: A great grass remover that I have used in the past is equal parts of:

-White Vinegar
-PH neutral dish soap
-Water

Shake all of the above well and pour onto the spot.

With a soft brush, remove any excess grass, dirt or mud from the garment.

Soak the stained area for at least an hour, then sponge the stain area with additional 50/50 solution lightly to remove the stain.

Let stand a few minutes then launder as usual. But remember; if the grass stain does not come out, don't put it into the dryer. Treat the stain again and re-wash.

This should do the trick. Remember that on the PH scale, with acid on one side and alkaline on the other, vinegar, which is an acid, is good to remove grass stains. Baking soda and borax that are alkaline are bad.

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Old bits of wood made new

Decor trends. Lost, found and repurposed — wood artists create pieces that honour their material's origins

Industrial designer Robert Hendrick was on a tech career track out of college until two things happened that changed his trajectory.

First, he bought a company that maintains and rebuilds railroad tracks. Then he started spending Saturdays building stuff with his father, Jim.

"I'd always been fascinated by trains and loved the history of how they were so instrumental in the industrialization of America," says Hendrick, of Nashville.

"Dad was a construction exec, and the carpentry shop was a weekend diversion. He was always salvaging some interesting artifact from a building that was being torn down. When I saw some of the scrap rails, I realized there might be some beautiful things we could make with them."

The two launched Rail Yard Studios in 2010. Using century-old railroad steel and hardwood timber, they make one-of-a-kind chairs, desks, tables and beds. Some of the rails date back as far as 1898. Each piece is numbered using a salvaged date nail that's been scavenged from the tracks themselves.

Many wood furniture artisans are interested, as the Hendricks are, in honouring the provenance of their material, whether it's repurposed, recycled or just reimagined as something that can be used in the home.

That creative respect makes for some beautiful and intriguing pieces.

Naomi Neilson Howard, founder of the company Native Trails in San Luis Obispo, Calif., uses staves and barrels from nearby wineries to make bathroom vanities for her Vintner's Collection.

Her Cabernet model has a deep, warm patina, the result of the oak soaking in red wine for several years. The pieces have an Old World, weathered quality.

This spring, Howard added the Renewal series to her line, a departure from the more rustic pieces. She moulds tightly grained, compressed bamboo into contemporary vanities such as the Halcyon, a curvy, wall-mounted piece fashioned from two proprietary varietals, Caramel Bamboo and the darker Woven Strand Bamboo.

Fred Strawser and David Smith have an eponymous Brooklyn shop selling refurbished and repurposed furnishings whose components started life back in Rust Belt factories. With its mix of heartland craftsmanship and modern high style, the shop has attracted the attention of design enthusiasts as far away as Japan.

For examples, a medical cart from late 19th-century Toledo, Ohio, gets a walnut top that used to be a leather worker's work surface, and is ready for action as a hip new desk or console. Industrial-chic side tables are made of thick, lustrously finished slabs of reclaimed wood with wrought-iron, hanging machinist's baskets instead of shelves.

Sarah Reiss is a Dallas-based artist, furniture designer and writer, who found her inner craftsman when buying a fixer-upper. She invested in a jigsaw and some other equipment and built a wall out of interesting reclaimed lengths of wood.

The striking result — a colourful, textural geometric piece of art — caught the attention of design bloggers, and her business took off.

"Piecing a wall together is like a long-form improvisation with a permanent outcome. I think that's pretty cool," she says.

Reiss will custom design a wall for you using locally sourced woods such as flooring from old bowling alleys or gymnasiums; shiplap; and barn siding. If you want something smaller, she makes chevron-patterned tables.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If this wood could talk

"Piecing a wall together is like a long-form improvisation with a permanent outcome. I think that's pretty cool."

Sarah Reiss, a Dallas-based artist, furniture designer and writer

A Bordeaux Wall Mount Vanity crafted from a reclaimed oak wine barrel. NATIVE TRAILS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Halcyon vanity made of Forest Stewardship Council certified Caramel Bamboo 3. NATIVE TRAILS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reclaimed wood used to make custom wall art. R & R DESIGNWORKS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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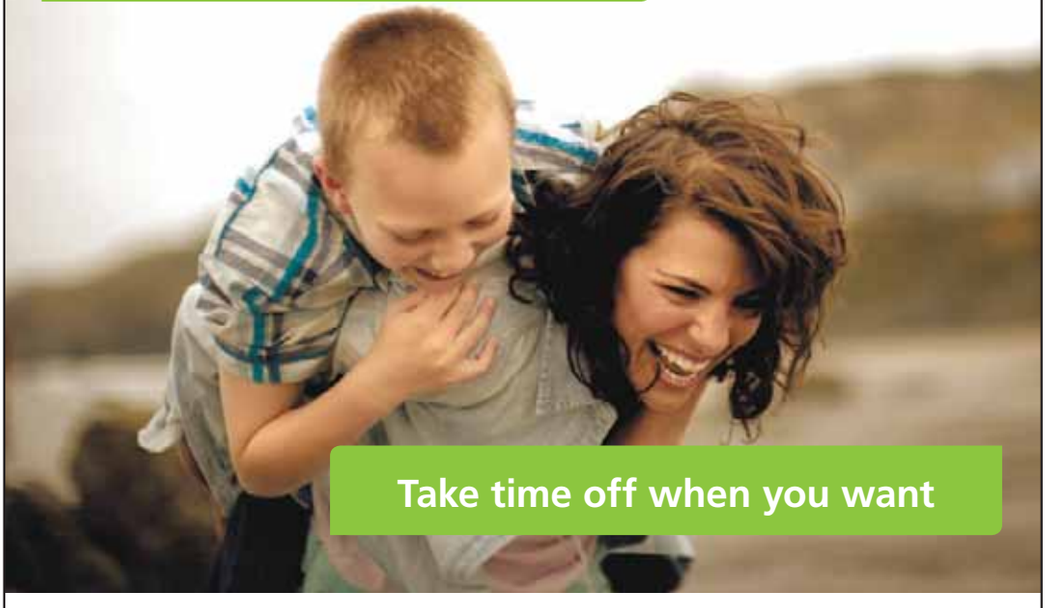

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A crash course in thinking vertically

Tall orders. Running out of floor and decor space? A few tricks can make small spaces seem bigger, or vice versa

When we furnish a room, many of us carefully measure to be sure the couch isn't too wide or the dining room table too long. We draw a horizontal map, determined to fit everything in without crowding.

But design experts do something more: They think vertically.

Kitchen and bath designer Matthew Quinn, principal of Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath Studio in Atlanta, G.A., says that as designers learn to sketch room layouts in design school, they discover the impact of the vertical and horizontal lines that furnishings and architecture create.

For example, a homeowner might not realize that a dark countertop contrasting with lighter cabinets underneath will create a horizontal line across the room, making the ceiling feel lower and the kitchen smaller.

"One of the main reasons that clients hire designers is that grasping scale can be difficult," says interior designer Kyle Schuneman of Live Well Designs in Los Angeles.

Quinn, Schuneman and decordemon.com founder Brian Patrick Flynn offer tips on how to work effectively with the heights of furniture, draperies and decorative pieces.

Maximize small spaces

To make a small or low room feel bigger, draw some vertical lines, says Schuneman.

"Hang the curtains all the way to the ceiling, not to where windows stop. Your eye visually feels like the space has been lifted," he says.

Patterned wallpaper or painted stripes on a wall can also help do the trick.

For tile bathrooms and kitchen backsplashes, Quinn suggests hanging rectangular subway-style wall tiles vertically, so they appear as tall, thin pieces. People normally use subway tiles horizontally, presenting them as short, wide rectangles.

Bring intimacy to large spaces

The same principles work in reverse. You can bring a large room down to a more comfortable scale by adding horizontal lines through contrasting colours or added surfaces.

A kitchen island with several levels will make a high-ceilinged kitchen feel cozier, says Quinn. To decorate a huge loft space recently, Schuneman used "lower seating profiles for all the couches and side chairs, and that really kind of created a nook within a big space." It became "a room within a room," perfect for intimate conversation.

Play with light

Lighting also can bring a large room down to size or add the impression of lift to lower ceilings.

"When spaces are tall, grounding them with pendant lights or chandeliers really makes a space seem more intimate," Flynn says.

Quinn agrees: We notice hanging lights in relation to the heads of people standing in a room. Lights that hang within a few inches of the heads of your tallest guests will make even a very tall room feel warm and welcoming. For low-ceilinged rooms, try recessed ceiling lighting instead of hanging lights.

Quinn suggests choosing smaller, pin-point recessed lights rather than the wider, can lights. The larger ones can make you feel as though a spotlight is bearing down on you.

Another trick is if your ceiling lighting can be positioned, point lights toward the sides of the room rather than directly downward. This widens and opens up the space.

Add drama

You can have fun with height in bedrooms, Flynn says, even if the ceiling is low. "I do this by playing with scale and proportion in relation to tall, architectural headboards or platform beds," he says.

"Similar to a giant chandelier in a grand entry, I love walking into a bedroom and being greeted by a statement bed. To keep a tall headboard from being too tall, I counterbalance it with hefty bedside chests, and either hanging pendant lamps above them, or by bringing in super-tall table lamps."

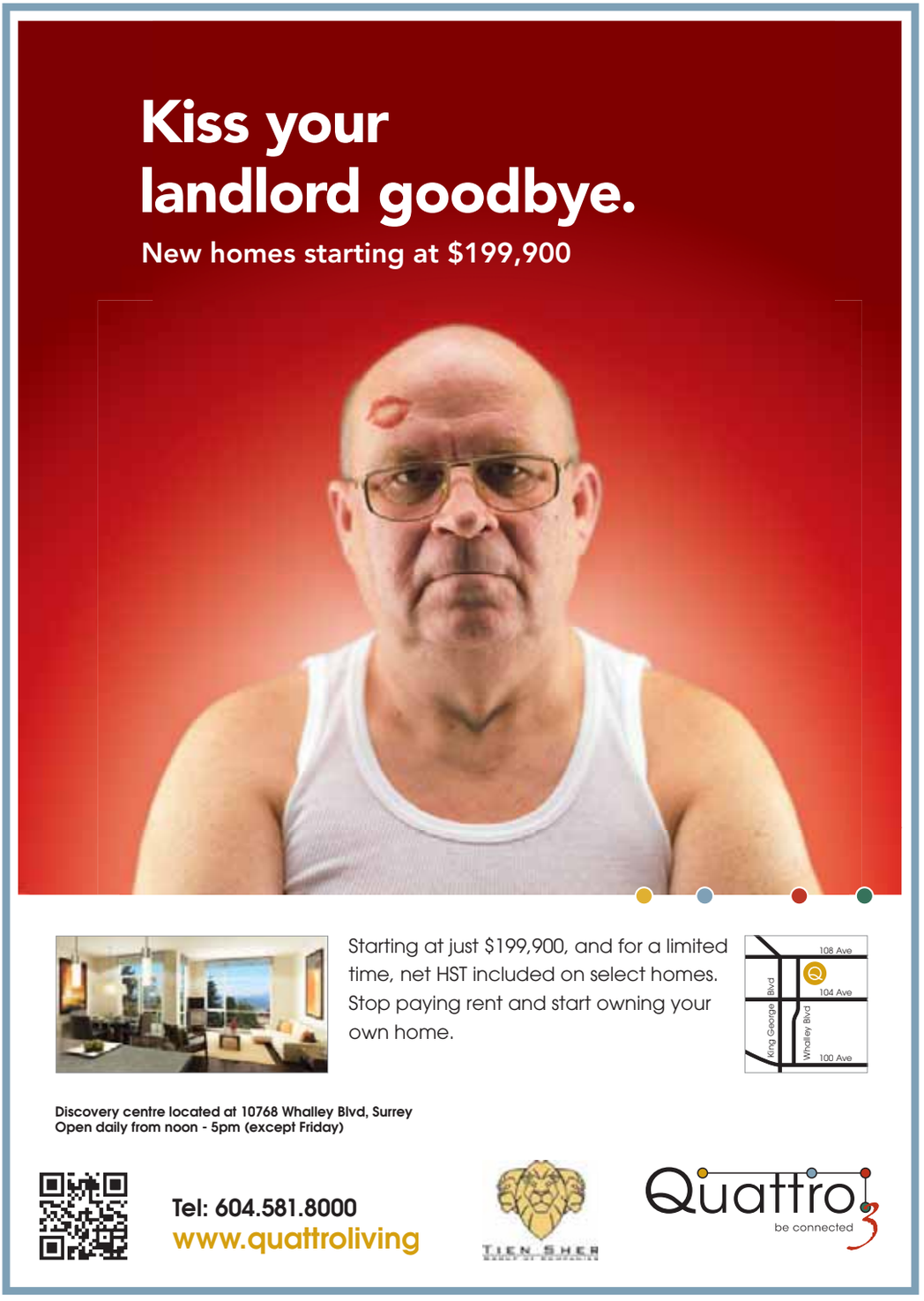
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Up, up and out of the way

"People often use a cabinet that they already have, which doesn't reach the ceiling, and then try to add storage baskets on top instead of buying the right piece — that taller piece — from the beginning."

Kyle Schuneman, Live Well Designs

Vertical decor: A kitchen designed by Matthew Quinn DESIGN GALLERIA KITCHEN & BATH STUDIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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A touch of northern Miami is just what the decorator ordered:
Create a space for visitors inspired by the modern style of the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort

Clean lines, touches of sheen, mirror and soft-neutral colours create modern glamour at Bal Harbor's St. Regis Hotel. CONTRIBUTED

The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, located in Bal Harbour village in the northern Miami area, is a bit of a tourist dream.

One side of the hotel hosts the The Bal Harbour Shops, one of the finest designer and art shopping destinations in the world.

On the other side is 1,000 feet of white sand shoreline boasting ocean-front cabanas outfitted with flat-panel televisions, wi-fi and mini bars. Now that's living a pretty glamorous life!

All guest suites have balconies with fantastic ocean-front beach views, a feature that offers inspiration to the inside designed by world-renown design firm Yabu Pushelberg (yabupushelberg.com), one of Canada's most contemporary design firms.

Light, airy colours, pale-wood tones, gold-metallic surfaces and mirrors add a light, glamourous touch to each room.

Think simplified Hollywood glamour and you've arrived at the right place. stregisbalharbour.com.

Why not take inspiration from the light neutral decor at the St. Regis Bal Harbour and create a similar look at home?

Ikea's Nyvoll Chest

Light wood and clean lines help keep a room calm. Ikea's Nyvoll Chest with three drawers, $199. Ikea.ca

CB2's Perspective Mirror

Hang some glitz and glam at the head of bed with CB2's Perspective Mirror, $169. CB2.com

Pier 1's Exhibit Lamp

Glass and metal reflect light allow night tables to stay airy looking. Pier1's Exhibit Lamp, $115. Pier1.ca

Benjamin Moore's cream cloak OC-135

Paint the walls an almond-coloured glossy paint finish, Benjamin Moore's cream cloak OC-135. BenjaminMoore.ca

Design Within Reach's Metallic Leather Throw Pillow

An accent of sheen with Design Within Reach's Metallic Leather Throw Pillow, $350. dwr.com

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Bathing bliss: A stainless-steel elliptical soaking tub from Diamond Spas nestled amongst white river rocks in a sleek, Asian-inspired tiled bath. DAN DANENBERG/DIAMOND SPAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bring a little spa to your casa

DIY ideas. When it comes to bathtubs, North American designers are soaking up Japanese style

Some of us are shower people, and some are bathers.

But there's a way to be both, as the Japanese discovered centuries ago when they developed the ofuro, or soaking tub.

Traditionally, the Japanese get clean with a shower or hand bath and then step into an "ofuro," a deep tub full of clean hot water. These tubs are often large enough that several family members can have a communal soak. It's considered a relaxing and important ritual.

The idea has caught on here, and there are now several manufacturers making ofuro tubs suitable for one bather or a couple.

Usually about 27 inches deep, the tubs typically have built-in seats, and often a grab bar. They're available in acrylic, composite, wood, even stainless steel and copper.

Here are the steamy details on some options, and what you should consider before adding one to your home:

Wooden tubs

Bill Finlay owns Sea Otter Woodworks in Haynes, Alaska. While he'd been making outdoor hot tubs for a few years, he made his first ofuro at the request of a business associate, and that sparked an interest in perfecting the craft.

"I made a couple of fact-finding trips to Japan, then developed my own techniques," he says.

Finlay makes the Hinoki Ofuro in a couple of sizes, suitable for one or two people. The material is an aromatic cypress native to Japan; the resin is bacteria and rot resistant and withstands humidity. The citrusy fragrance is a common aromatherapy component.

Metal tubs

Diamond Spas in Frederick, Colo., welds recycled copper and stainless steel into tubs that are lined with foam insulation, then buffed to a nice Old World finish. Like kitchen pans, the copper tubs can be left to develop a patina, or rendered shiny with a polishing compound. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get your own 'ofuro'

Soaking tubs aren't as complicated to install as you might think.

- **Who knew?** If you're putting in a smaller, one or two-person tub, you'll actually use less water than a conventional tub.
- **Mega water.** But a four-person version can hold a lot of water — close to 250 gallons, compared to around 50 for a conventional tub.
- **Don't sink through the floor.** Floor joists need to be able to hold the weight of the water, not just the tub.
- **D'oh!** Make sure you'll be able to get the tub sideways through doorways.
- **Safety first.** Many tubs come with an overflow fail-safe built in, but you should have a drain in the bathroom floor as well.
- **Camouflage.** The river rock bed is an attractive way to hide a draining floor system, but you can also tile the bathroom floor and install a drain.
- **Some like it hot.** You'll need lots of hot water, so upgrade your system, and consider an in-line heater that continuously reheats the full tub.

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Have you got friends in low places?

Weeping wonders.
Trees that reach for the ground can add interest to a yard where all the other plants are searching out the sun

Why do some trees weep?

Because they want to grow down. Instead of reaching for the sky, as most trees do, young stems of weeping trees toy only briefly with upward growth before arching gracefully earthward. Some plants begin to weep in earnest only after they get some age to them.

Many yards benefit from some weeping tree, whether it's a willow along a stream bank, a weeping cherry lending grace and tranquility to a front lawn, or a weeping beech providing a hideaway for kids.

The only caution with weeping trees is not to plant too many, which might mean more than one. Otherwise, the scene can look sad indeed.

In the beginning

A weeping tree may have begun life as a random seedling whose quirky arrangement of genes directed its stems to weep. Such plants, although woody, could hardly be called trees. A weeping kind of goat willow, for example, makes a kind of billowing ground cover never rising more than a few feet off the ground.

Or, a weeping tree may have begun life with normal stature — until some cells in some branch underwent a slight mutation to a weeping habit. Perhaps the mutation was caused by sunlight or temperature; perhaps it was spontaneous.

At any rate, all new stems and branches originating from those changed cells weep.

Making new weeping trees

Now let's make new plants from that weeping seedling or weeping branches. If the plant is one that roots easily from cuttings, you could just clip off a branch, stick it in the ground or some potting soil, and nurture it along. Problem is that if the tree is a heavy weeper, it will never get much off the ground.

To get that weeper up off the ground, or to create a weeping tree from a plant that doesn't root readily from cuttings, graft a stem or bud from the weeping plant atop a trunk of some upright plant. As with any graft, success is possible only if the trunk section is closely related to the weeping stem piece. The graft juncture is usually obvious throughout the life of the tree.

A weeping larch in Scarsdale, NY LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To create a real, taller tree out of a ground-hugging weeper, or if the plant is one that doesn't root readily from cuttings, graft a stem or bud from the weeping plant atop a trunk of some upright plant. As with any graft, success is possible only if the trunk section is closely related to the weeping stem piece. The graft juncture is usually obvious throughout the life of the tree.

Sometimes a branch of a weeping tree will all of a sudden start reaching skyward. (Talk about a wacky looking tree!) That stem could have arisen from a bud below the point where the graft was made. Or a weeping tree that originated as a branch mutation might have retained some non-weeping cells. In either case, just cut any non-weeping stems right back to their origins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serenity now

Many trees that weep

Looking beyond the ubiquitous weeping cherries and crabapples, weeping trees are not all that rare.

Japanese dogwood (Cornus kousa) is a lovely tree whose white blossoms unfold after the leaves are fully out; the variety Elizabeth Lustgarten has somewhat weepy upper branches. Pendulum, a weeping form of Katsuratree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum), presents a waterfall of bluish green leaves.

For a weeping evergreen, few are more graceful than the Sargent hemlock.

Or more odd than a weeping form of giant sequoia, whose leading stem pushes skyward in fits and starts, zigging and zagging and dipping along the way but always remaining clothed in a shaggy mane of droopy branches.

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Dazzle your guests by giving them their first taste of cherry season

Making and baking a traditional pie crust is more challenging than this open-concept cherry tart pastry. The cornmeal adds an extra dimension to the crust, as do the almond-flavoured macaroon cookies.

1. In food processor, pulse flour with cornmeal, sugar and salt. Add butter and pulse until it is the size of peas with a few larger pieces. Drizzle with 3 tbsp (45 ml) water. Pulse until mixture is moistened, adding remaining water by 1/2 tsp (2 ml) if needed. Pulse just until dough starts to gather into a ball. Then turn out onto work surface. Gather and knead gently to bring together. Shape into disc and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for one hour.

2. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface roll dough very thinly into a circle measuring about 12 inches (30 cm). Don't worry if it's not perfect. Discard any excess dough. Carefully wrap dough around rolling pin and transfer to parchment paper. Sprinkle macaroons in centre of circle, leaving a two-inch (3.5-cm) border.

3. Place cherries in bowl along with orange peel, sugar, cinnamon and almond extract. Stir well to evenly distribute orange peel. Turn cherry mixture onto macaroons. Fold pastry over cherries to enclose, leaving circle about five inches (12.5 cm) in the middle so that you can still see fruit. Whisk egg yolk with 1 tbsp (15 ml) water then brush over pastry. Sprinkle pastry with sugar. Bake on bottom shelf of preheated oven until a golden colour, about 20 to 23 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Delicious with whipped cream or ice cream. **NEWS CANADA/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Open-Faced Cherry Tart

Cornmeal adds extra dimension to this crust. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 cup (325 ml) all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cornmeal
- 2 tsp (10 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) ice water (approx)
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) finely crumbled Italian macaroons
- 4 cups (1l) California cherries, pitted
- 2 tsp (10 ml) orange peel
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) almond extract (optional)

Glaze:

- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp (5 ml) granulated sugar
- Whipped cream or ice cream (optional)

Cookbook of the Week

Sinfully Easy Delicious Desserts

In her book Sinfully Easy Delicious Desserts, Alice Medrich proves that fabulous desserts don't have to require hours of prep.

Not only does the book boast more than 100 ideas for spur-of-the-moment desserts that don't involve baking, it also has tips on seven must-have baking tools, magic ingredients and a guide to the dessert maker's basic pantry.

Meanwhile, foolproof recipes include: Grilled Pineapple with Coffee Ice Cream, Lemon-Scented Peach Crisp, Salted-Caramel Banana Bread Pudding, Coconut Pecan Torte, Bittersweet Brownie Drops, Classic Carrot Cake and more. **METRO**

Indulge in a classic Sour Cream Coffee Cake

This recipe serves 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this recipe, you can substitute walnuts for the pecans if you like, and even add coconut or a bit of chocolate to the batter, which is rich and moist without being heavy.

The cake is even better baked the day before, eliminating the work the day you want to serve it.

Because it works well for brunch, try serving it with a savory sausage-egg strata that can be assembled the night before and baked just before you want to eat. Add fruit salad and you have a perfectly delicious and perfectly balanced brunch.

1. Heat the oven to 325 F. Coat a 12-cup (large) Bundt pan with a bit of vegetable oil or cooking spray (do not use baking spray).

2. Batter: In bowl, combine the butter and sugar. Use an electric mixer to beat until light and fluffy. Add sour cream, eggs and vanilla, then mix again until well incorporated.

3. Measure and sift together the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add flour mix to butter-sugar mix a little at a time, mixing between additions and scraping the sides of the bowl as needed, until well mixed. Set aside.

4. Filling: In bowl combine pecans, brown sugar, granulated sugar, cinnamon and salt. Mix well. Spoon shallow layer of the filling mix over the bottom of the Bundt pan. Spoon half the batter into the pan over the filling. Sprinkle all but 1/4 cup of the remaining filling evenly over the batter.

5. Pour the rest of the batter over the filling, smoothing it with a silicone spatula. Sprinkle with the remaining filling.

6. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until the cake pulls away from sides and a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean. Start testing for doneness after the cake has baked for 40 minutes since ovens and pans vary in the way they bake. Remove from oven and transfer cake pan to a cooling rack. Let cool before slicing. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ELIZABETH KARMEL (GRILLING AND SOUTHERN FOODS EXPERT AND EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK)**

Ingredients

Batter

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 1/4 cups sour cream (not light or non-fat)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups sifted flour (sift before measuring)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon fine-grain sea salt

Cinnamon-sugar filling

- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- Pinch of sea salt

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4

SPORTS

Cycling

"Now, I think Ryder Hesjedal is the great favourite. Today he was able not to lose any seconds, and if the gaps stay like this ... I won't have any chance against him in the Milan individual time trial."

Joaquin Rodriguez, who won the tough 17th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday to keep his grip on the overall lead. Victoria native Ryder Hesjedal remained 30 seconds behind Rodriguez in the race for the pink jersey, which the Spaniard will wear for a seventh day on Thursday.

On the web

World and Olympic records have already fallen at the feet of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt. So how does he plan to top himself in London? By improving on his only weakness. Scan the code for the story.

NFL

Players allege cap 'conspiracy'

The players' union claimed Wednesday that the NFL imposed a secret salary cap during the uncapped 2010 season that cost the players at least $1 billion US. The complaint claims a "conspiracy" was made by owners to set a $123-million cap. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

76ers send series back to Boston

Jrue Holiday scored 20 points, and Elton Brand had 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the tough and determined Philadelphia 76ers past the Celtics, 82-75, on Wednesday night to send the Eastern Conference semifinals back to Boston for Game 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

76ers guard Lou Williams celebrates Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

NHL

"I believe I coached with tomorrow in mind as opposed to today and that might have hurt me."

Tom Renney on Wednesday.
The Oilers, a team nearing the end of a lengthy rebuild, decided not to renew Renney's contract last week.

NBA

James tops defensive team

LeBron James was the leading vote-getter for the NBA's all-defensive team. Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, Clippers guard Chris Paul, Grizzlies guard Tony Allen and Magic centre Dwight Howard joined James on the first team Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps crack first in Toronto

Soccer. Goal in 83rd minute gives Toronto FC Canadian championship win over Vancouver

Vancouver's Davide Chiumiento, left, reacts after he missed a late scoring opportunity on Wednesday evening in Toronto. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For once, the music blared in the Toronto FC locker-room.

The worst team in Major League Soccer is now champion of Canada thanks to a 1-0 win on the night and 2-1 on aggregate over the Vancouver Whitecaps.

"You lose nine games, all of a sudden you're a champion," said Toronto goalkeeper Milos Kocic, acknowledging the irony while enjoying Wednesday's result.

"It's kind of like a different mentality in the locker-room now. You can hear everybody's happy, everybody's laughing. We need to celebrate. You need to feel happy inside."

The Amway Canadian Championship win before 13,777 at BMO Field allowed Toronto FC to retain the Voyageurs Cup for a fourth straight year — and returns them to the CONCACAF Champions League, where they made it to the semifinals this year.

The two teams tied 1-1 last week in Vancouver (5-3-3 in league play), with Ryan Johnson's goal for TFC followed by a magnificent volley by Eric Hassli in stoppage time for the Whitecaps.

For Whitecaps coach Martin Rennie, whose team underwhelmed Wednesday, there was only disappointment and a little bewilderment.

While congratulating Toronto for its win, he wondered about the wisdom of appointing a referee (Silviu Petrescu) from Ontario.

Petrescu issued eight yellow cards (four to each side) and ejected Toronto's Julian de Guzman and Vancouver's Sebastien Le Toux after a melee near the touchline 12 minutes into the second half.

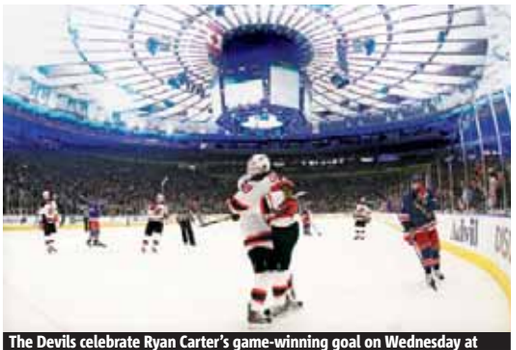
De Guzman got a straight red and Le Toux a second yellow.

"I was literally two yards away from it so no one can have a better view than I had," said Rennie. "De Guzman came across and threw someone on the ground, then hit someone — I'd say punched him in the face.

"From that incident we gained nothing. I'm absolutely at a loss at how that can happen in a game of football and us end up with 10 men. That to me was a hugely disappointing moment in the game."

The ejections — "a huge moment," said Rennie — opened up the field and made a scrappy game even scrappier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Devils on the cusp of Stanley Cup final



The Devils celebrate Ryan Carter's game-winning goal on Wednesday at Madison Square Garden. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Ryan Carter snapped a tie with 4:24 left, and the New Jersey Devils survived for a 5-3 victory over the New York Rangers after blowing a three-goal lead in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference final on Wednesday night.

The Devils, who led 3-0 before the first period was half over, have a 3-2 edge in the series and can advance to face the Los Angeles Kings in the Stanley Cup final with a win at home on Friday night. If the Rangers can stay alive then, Game 7 would be back in Madison Square Garden on Sunday.

The Devils seemed primed for an easy win when Stephen Gionta and Patrik Elias scored within the first 4:13 of the game. Travis Zajac made it 3-0 before the Rangers woke up and began chipping away.

Brandon Prust brought New York within 3-1 before the first period was over, and Ryan Callahan made it a one-goal game in the first minute of the second. The Garden really rocked when Marian Gaborik tied it at 3 just 17 seconds into the third with his first goal of the series.

But the comeback was all for naught. Carter put the Devils back in front, and Zach Parise sealed it with an empty-net goal in the closing seconds.

"You have to (keep it together) this time of year," Gionta said. "You have to have a short memory. Fortunately we did and came out with the victory." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game 5

Devils	Rangers
5	3

Alain Vigneault coaches during the first round against Los Angeles in April. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Another round at Canucks' helm

NHL. GM Gillis signs 'one of the premiere coaches' to extension

Alain Vigneault has resolved his future in Vancouver. Now, he wants to help the Canucks figure out what went wrong this season.

The coach signed a contract extension on Wednesday, ending speculation on whether he would be back behind the Canucks bench next season.

"We're looking for some solutions — and we're going to find those solutions," said Vigneault from his off-season home in Gatineau, Que., during a conference call.

The Canucks did not disclose terms, but Vigneault said it was a two-year extension.

The Canucks have posted the league's best regular-season record for the last two seasons under Vigneault, but his job status was unclear after Vancouver was bounced by eighth-place Los Angeles in the first round of the playoffs.

Analyzing the season publicly for the first time since Vancouver was eliminated, Vigneault said the Canucks were not able to play "in the moment" to the same extent that they did while advancing to last year's Stanley Cup final.

Vigneault said the Canucks suffered from the same woes that befell the Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings when they made long runs to the finals. He and general manager Mike Gillis plan to dissect the problem more thoroughly to avoid a repeat in the future.

"We're trying to see if, maybe through a bit more scientific approach to different elements, we will be able to get our team in a better situation to have success here as we move forward," Vigneault said.

If Vigneault could have a "do-over," he said he would respond differently to Daniel Sedin's concussion. Sedin missed eight games after taking an elbow from Chicago defenceman Duncan Keith in March.

Vigneault said he discovered only two days before the start of the playoffs that Sedin would be out for Game 1. Had he known differently, he would have made earlier adjustments to the power play and line combinations.

"It's a lesson that with head injuries you never know," Vigneault said. "It's something with moving forward I am going to deal better with. I learned a valuable lesson on that and I think it will make me a better coach." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Record

Vigneault, a 51-year-old Quebec City native, has guided the Canucks to a 287-155-50 record, the highest winning percentage in franchise history (.634), and five Northwest Division titles.

Quoted

"I feel fortunate to be able to work with such a dedicated group of management, coaches and players in this great city I love."
Alain Vigneault

MLB

Romero out of control in Florida

Ricky Romero has no answers for his control problems.

Romero walked a career-high seven in six-plus innings for Toronto, and B.J. Upton hit an RBI double in the 11th that sent the Tampa Bay Rays over the Blue Jays 5-4 on Wednesday.

Romero gave up four runs and two hits. The left-hander, who also hit a batter, has walked 21 over his last four starts.

"I can't explain it," Romero said. "It's frustrating. I've just got to keep working. This game takes a lot out of you mentally, more than physically. I'm trying to fix things and it's just not going my way."

Romero threw just 54 of 105 pitches for strikes.

Rich Thompson was hit by a pitch from Darren Oliver (0-2) to start the 11th and scored on Upton's one-out drive into the left-field corner.

Jake McGee (1-1) struck out two during a perfect 11th.

Tampa Bay took two of three from the Blue Jays, and have won 15 consecutive home series against Toronto.

Bautista put the Blue Jays up 1-0 on his 12th homer this season in the first. He has seven homers and 14 RBIs over his last 13 games.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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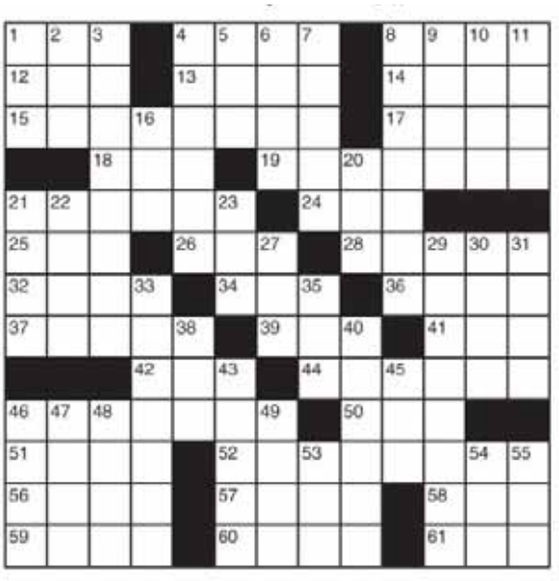
Crossword

Across
1 Suitable
4 Antitoxins
8 Govt. employees
12 Private address?
13 Mideast airline
14 Detail
15 Overflowing
17 Waikiki wing-ding
18 Cover
19 Sudden big profit
21 Dormant
24 "Opus —"
25 "The Greatest"
26 Encountered
28 Erstwhile Peruvians
32 "Monopoly" payment
34 Corn spike
36 Steps leading to the Ganges
37 Kelly's cohost
39 Front of the ship
41 George's brother
42 Privy
44 The Pequod, e.g.
46 Star status
50 Under the weather
51 Jai —
52 Old British coin
56 Pelt
57 Architect Saarinen
58 Ultra-modernist
59 Suspend
60 Abound
61 Chatter away

Down
1 Pompous fool
2 "Great Expectations" lad
3 Literary critic Lionel
4 Hardly ever
5 Inventor Whitney
6 Standing
7 Cold
8 Cavity remedy
9 Needle case
10 Jerry's longtime partner
11 Complacent
16 Abner's adjective
20 Mainlanders' memento
21 Klinger portrayer
22 Sheltered
23 Teeny
27 Bill
29 Like horror movies
30 Swiss river
31 Constellation component
33 Farm chore
35 Tier
38 — -disant
40 Erstwhile
43 Beginning
45 Every last crumb
46 Wild party
47 Chase of Hollywood lore
48 Reclined
49 Clarified butter
53 Rage
54 Teachers' org.
55 Sailor



Sudoku

	1		2		9		6	
7								2
		2		6		7		
	3	9		4		6	8	
	6			9			5	
	5	4		8		3	7	
		1		5		4		
9								8
	7		4		3		2	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	1	2	3	9	5	8	7
7	8	2	4	5	1	6	9	3
3	5	9	6	8	7	4	1	2
5	1	8	7	2	6	9	3	4
4	2	3	9	1	8	7	6	5
9	7	6	5	4	3	8	2	1
1	9	4	8	7	2	3	5	6
8	3	7	1	6	5	2	4	9
2	6	5	3	9	4	1	7	8

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

RNWWXRUTF YT YGMOLG'R DXZ ZLGL RALLQAE CLRUFTLC, U FNLRR UH JUFOH DL QTXZT YR YGGXZ-CETYJUM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING RECENTLY STARTED ON HER WICKER BASKET PROJECT, SHE REPORTED "WEAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 14°/10° Partly cloudy
Friday 19°/11° Mainly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now. Check the 14 day trend.
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. If you have something worth saying — and you do — people will listen no matter how unconventional your message may be.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You believe that fate has not been fair to you. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and make your talents pay.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Mercury, your ruler, joins the Sun in your sign today. It means a new start and a new life is possible.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. If you use your imagination today, you will come up with a solution to a problem that has been annoying you for months, maybe years.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Any place where there is music and laughter will attract you like a moth to the flame over the next 24 hours.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Changes in your working life will be forced on you over the next few weeks but you must not resist them. They're changes for the better.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Mercury in Gemini will make it easy for you to change an idea or an opinion that is past its sell-by date.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. While other people were changing their minds every few minutes you resolutely stuck to your guns — and now it's about to pay off.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Yes, other people may have the upper hand but that does not mean you cannot do your own thing.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. This is the perfect time to start a new health or fitness program. You know what your goal is.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You can afford to take risks. You can afford to bend the rules a little. Put a name to your dream and go after it.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You are in the mood to make changes but if they are likely to affect other people you must consult them first. They won't stand in your way.

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Briann

KRISTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Last Chance For BIG Savings!

Our huge selection is price guaranteed to beat any advertised price. All our jewellery would be priced 50% to 70% higher at other stores.
Now with an additional 35% off of our every day low prices.

It seems that our 35% discount isn't enough of a savings but people may not realise how low our regular retail prices are when compared to other retailers. Our prices are so low that we've accidentally sold items below melt value because some of our prices have not yet been updated!

Sale ends July 15, 2012

Most jewellery priced at below wholesale.
35% discount now applies to gold sold by weight.

18kt yellow gold ring with cushion shaped flat topped blood stone (heliotrope), 19.6 grams
Appraisal value: $2,400.00
J&M Regular Price $1,219.00
J&M Sale Price $793.00

14kt gold ring with 7.0 mm Akoya cultured pearl surrounded by 15 diamonds (0.23cttw), 3.2 grams
Appraisal value: $1,300.00
J&M Regular Price $379.00
J&M Sale Price $247.00

Ladies 14kt yellow gold cluster ring featuring 10 marquis cut rubies (3.28 cttw) and 20 full cut diamonds (0.32 cttw)
Appraisal value $3,850.00
J&M Regular Price $1,739.00
J&M Sale Price $1,130.00

14kt white gold top and drop pendant with a 3.6 ct and 0.6 ct blue topaz and 43 diamonds (0.30 cttw), 2.1 grams
Appraisal value $1,600.00
J&M Regular Price $589.00
J&M Sale Price $382.00

14kt yellow gold ring with triangular cabochon cut ritulated quartz accented by 8 diamonds (0.12 cttw), 13.8 grams
Appraisal value: $2,000.00
J&M Regular Price $635.00
J&M Sale Price $413.00

14kt white gold slide pendant featuring 5 princess cut diamonds (0.64 cttw) surrounded by 29 full-cut diamonds (0.36 cttw) with 14kt white gold 18" modified fox tail link chain, 9.1 grams
Appraisal value: $2,600.00
J&M Regular Price $1,099.00
J&M Sale Price $715.00

18kt white gold bracelet, polished finishing, chess-style diamond cut pattern links, 18.21 grams
J&M Regular Price $1,490.00
J&M Sale Price $968.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00
J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

Ladies' 14kt yellow gold dual strand rope style bracelet with five faceted amethysts (4.12 cttw), 11.6 grams
Appraisal value: $1,850.00
J&M Regular Price $759.00
J&M Sale Price $494.00

Ladies 18kt white gold classic ring featuring a 0.36 ct diamond SI-2 F and 13 baguette/tapered baguette diamonds (0.41 cttw), 3.5 grams
Appraisal value: $2,900.00
J&M Regular Price $1,339.00
J&M Sale Price $870.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
J&M Regular Price $473.00
J&M Sale Price $377.00

14kt yellow gold stylised cross pendant with partially rhodium plated matte and polished frame with polished tips and 10 full cut diamonds (0.10 cttw), 4.1 grams
Appraisal value: $850.00
J&M Regular Price $355.00
J&M Sale Price $230.00

Ladies 14kt yellow gold ring featuring a 2.40 ct medium purple faceted amethyst, 4.6 grams
Appraisal value: $1,000.00
J&M Regular Price $339.00
J&M Sale Price $220.00

Ladies' 14kt rose gold ring featuring a 25.0/18.0mm cabochon cut aventurine quartz surrounded by tree rows of twisted wire detailing, 13.3 grams
Appraisal value: $1,350.00
J&M Regular Price $659.00
J&M Sale Price $429.00

.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams
J&M Regular Price $565.00
J&M Sale Price $365.00

Voted #1 Jewellery Store in the 2011 and 2012
***Readers Choice Awards*, Stars of Vancouver !**

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***Best Local Jeweller* for 10 Years in a Row!**

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